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Abraham et al.

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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COMMUNICATION OF CHANNEL STATE INFORMATION**

H04L 5/0057 (2013.01); **H04L 5/0094** (2013.01); **H04B 7/0641** (2013.01);
(Continued)

(71) Applicant: **QUALCOMM Incorporated**, San Diego, CA (US)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H04L 12/26; H04L 5/0035; H04L 5/0055; H04L 5/0057; H04L 12/2869; H04L 12/5695; H04L 47/00; H04L 47/70; H04L 47/78; H04L 47/821; H04L 47/827; H04W 72/04
See application file for complete search history.

(72) Inventors: **Santosh Paul Abraham**, San Diego, CA (US); **Simone Merlin**, Solana Beach, CA (US); **Sameer Vermani**, San Diego, CA (US); **Hemanth Sampath**, San Diego, CA (US)

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(73) Assignee: **QUALCOMM, Incorporated**, San Diego, CA (US)

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 364 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **14/492,421**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Primary Examiner — Jung-Jen Liu

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Dang M. Vo

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04B 7/06 (2006.01)
H04L 1/00 (2006.01)

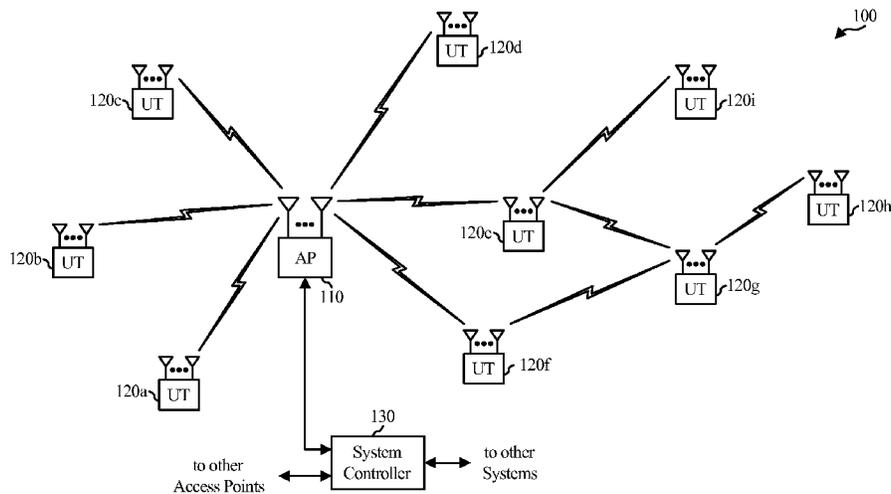
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Certain aspects of the present disclosure relate to a technique for communicating Channel State Information (CSI) feedback. In some aspects, the CSI feedback is communicated in a very high throughput (VHT) wireless communications system.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H04B 7/0626** (2013.01); **H04L 1/0025** (2013.01); **H04L 1/0028** (2013.01); **H04L 1/0039** (2013.01); **H04L 1/0079** (2013.01);

12 Claims, 26 Drawing Sheets



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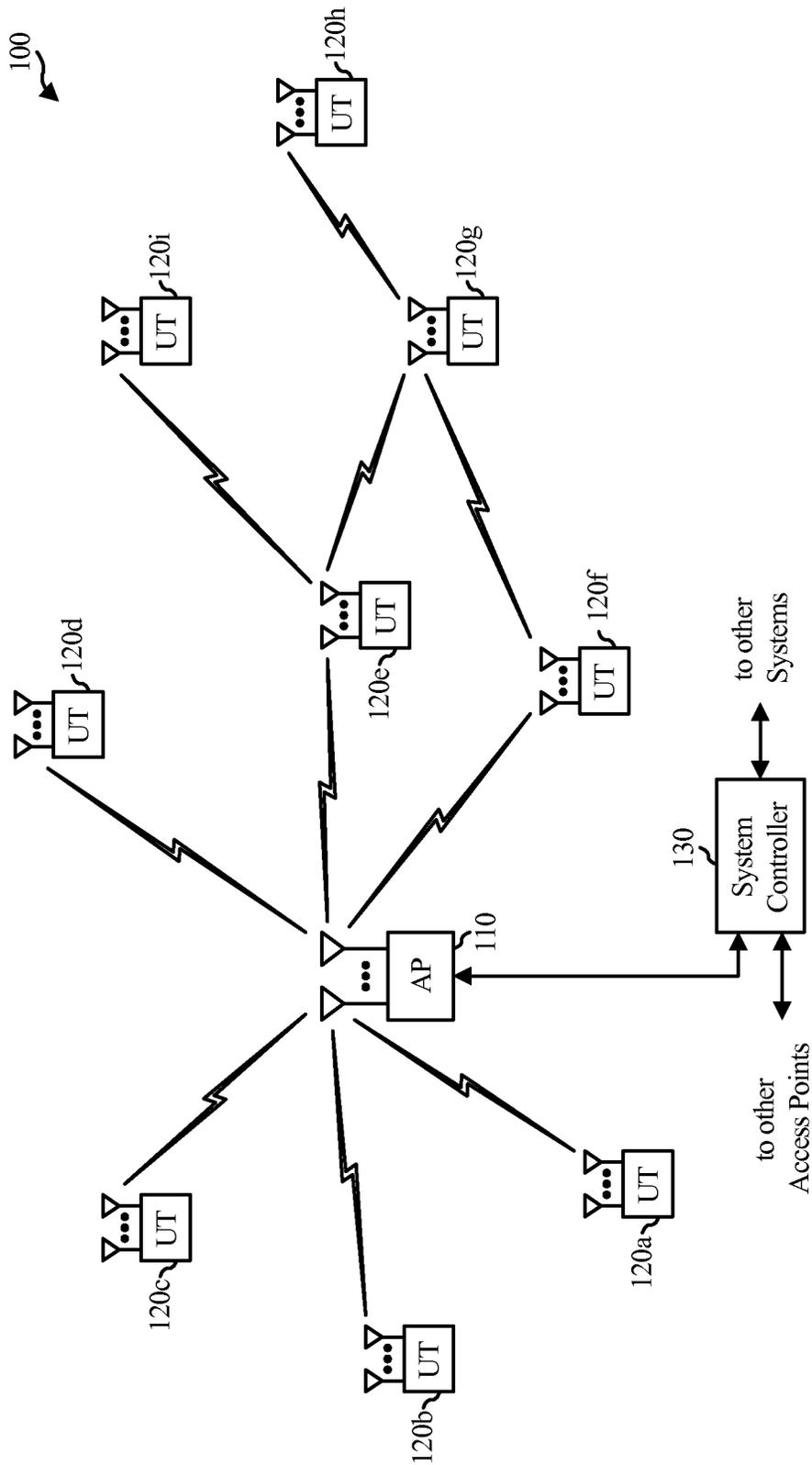


FIG. 1

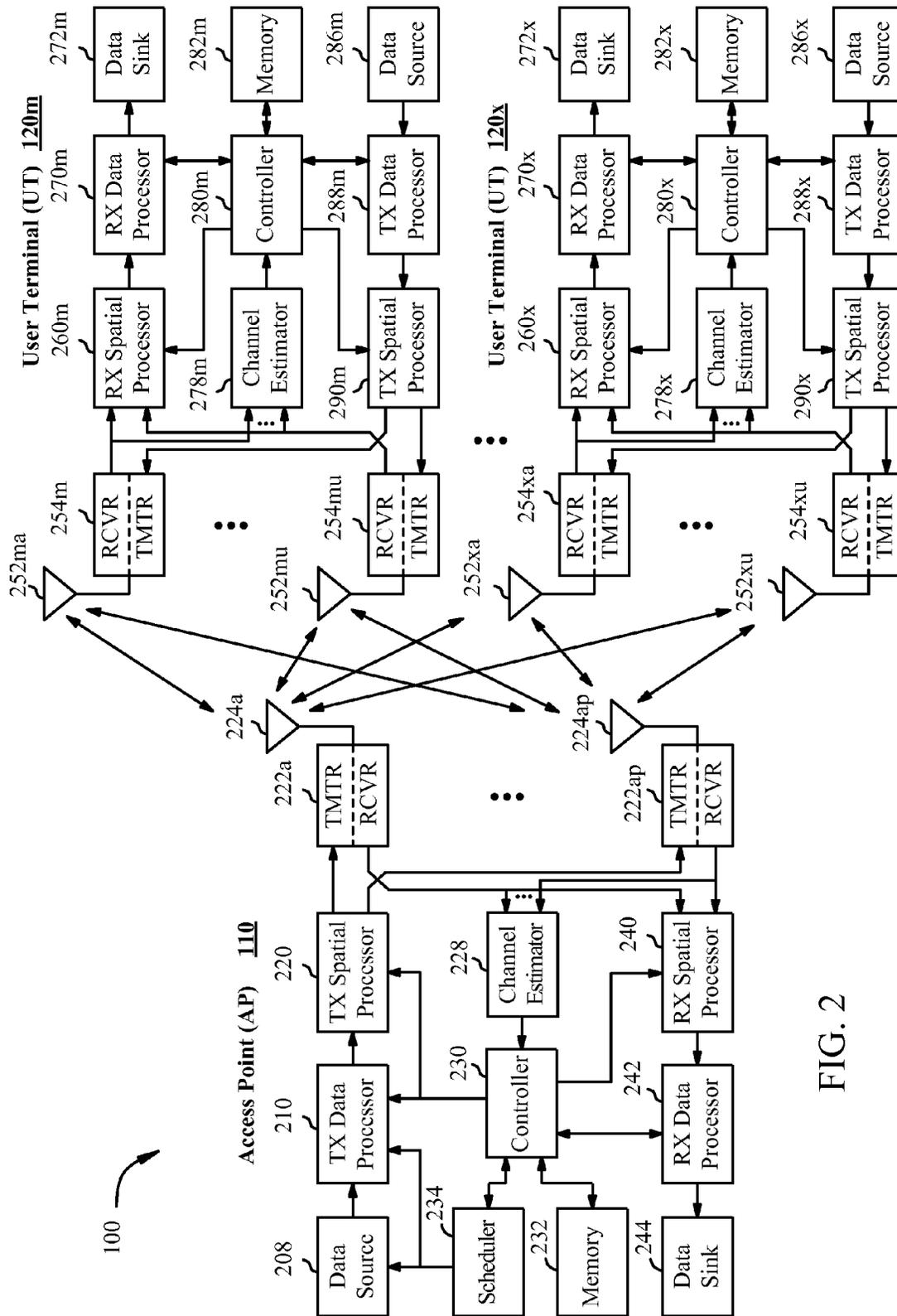


FIG. 2

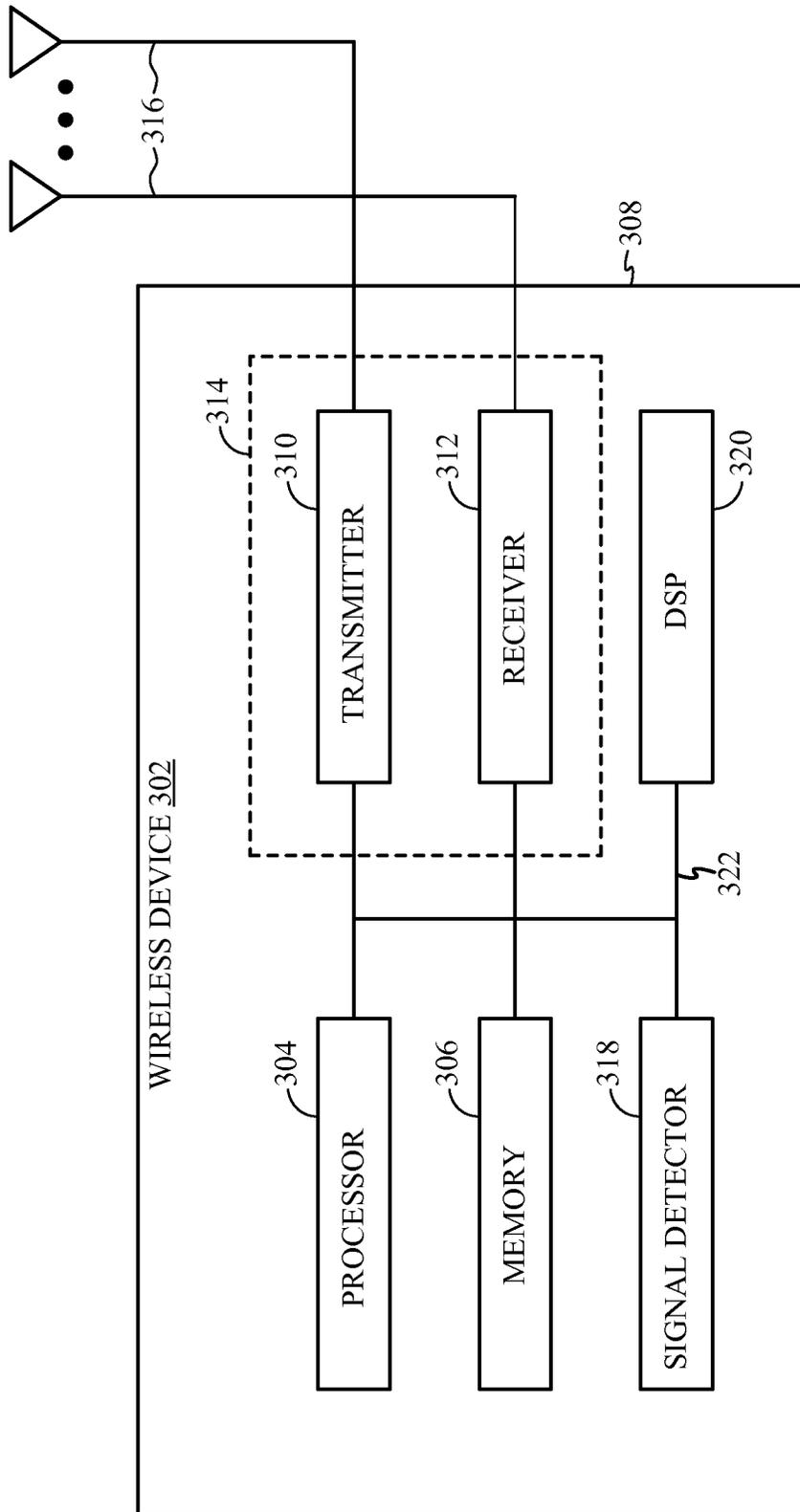


FIG. 3

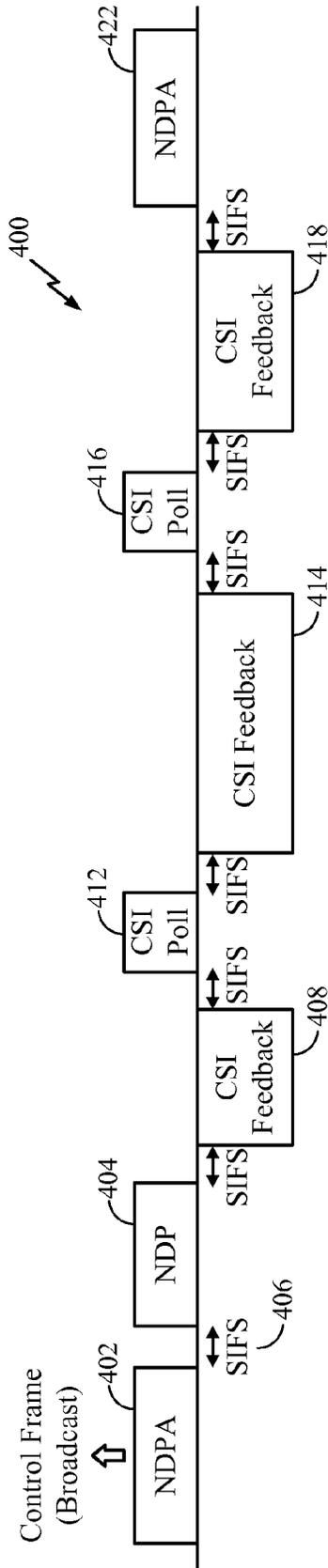


FIG. 4

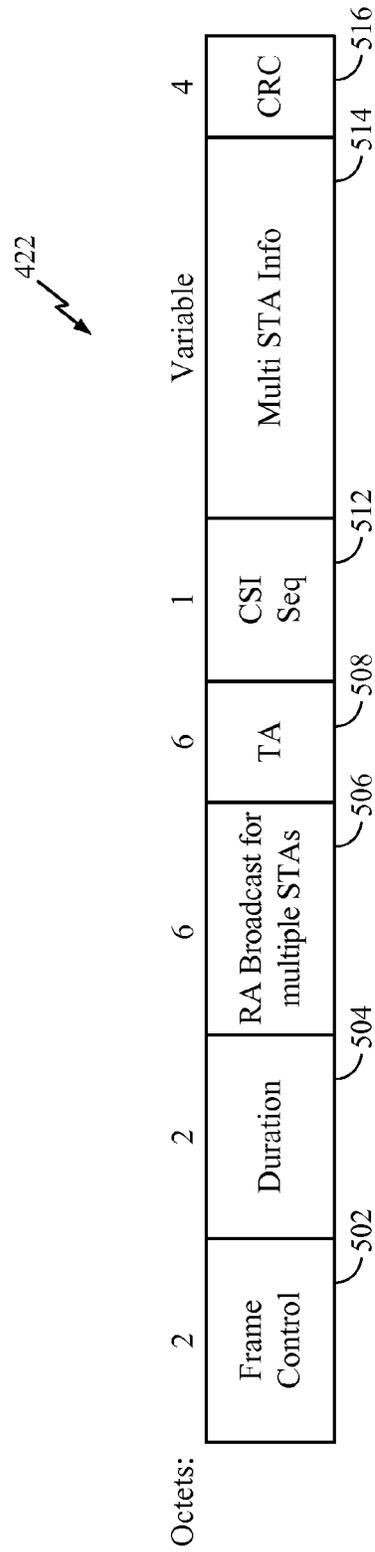


FIG. 5

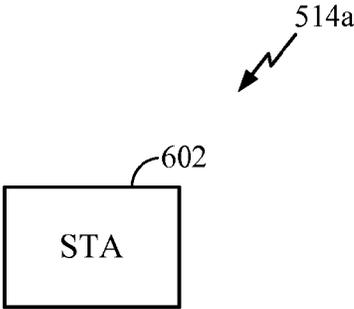


FIG. 6A

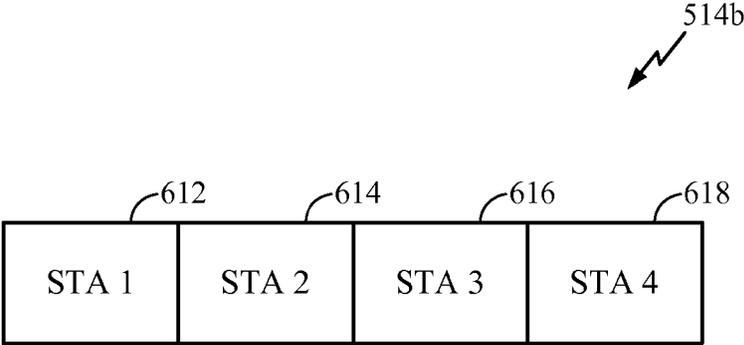


FIG. 6B

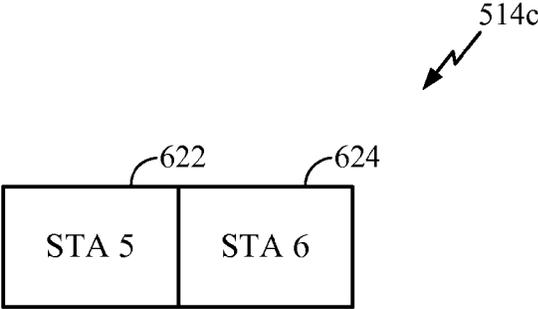


FIG. 6C

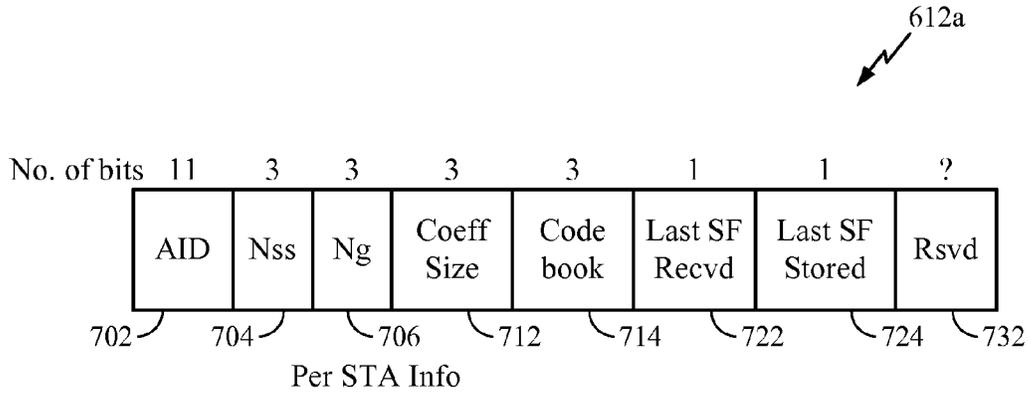


FIG. 7A

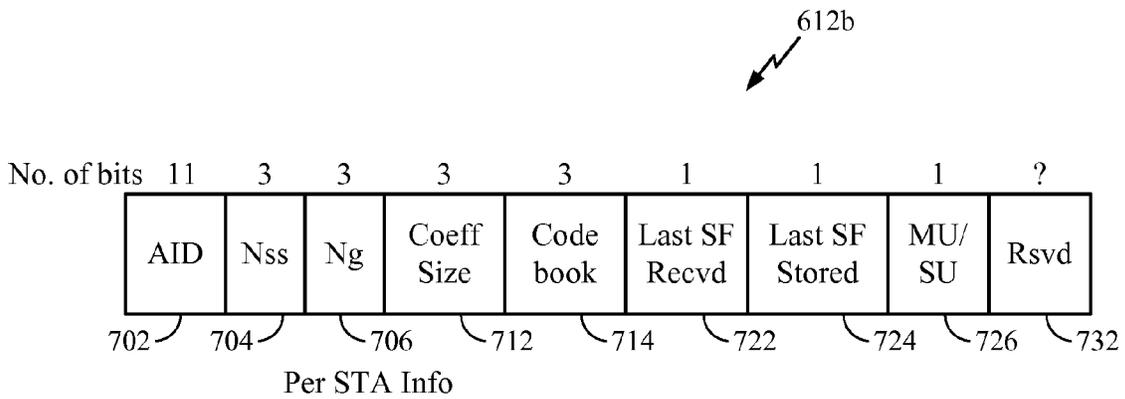


FIG. 7B

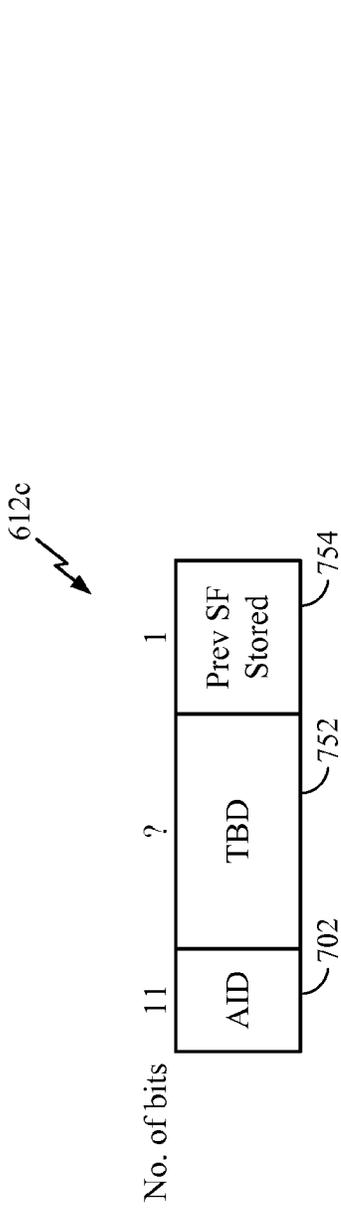


FIG. 7C

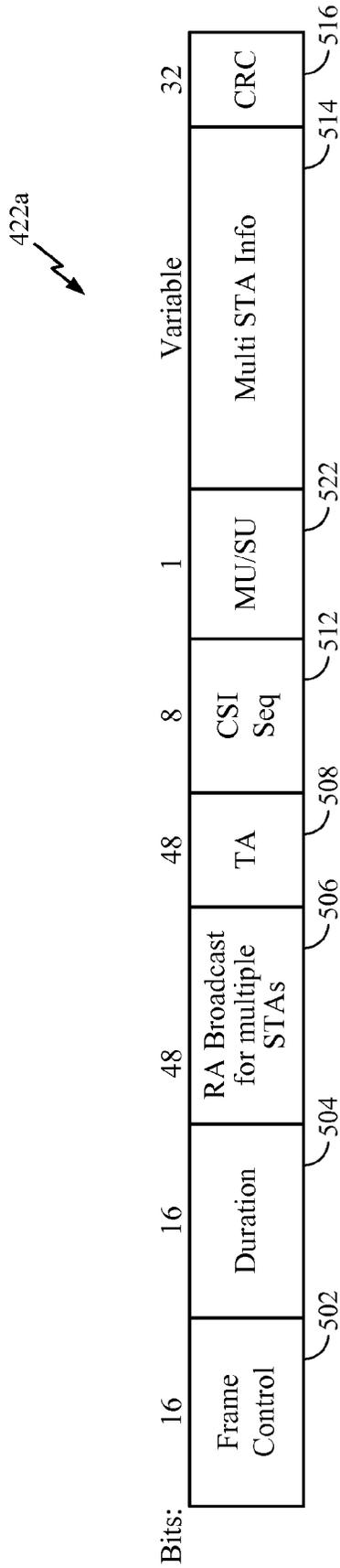


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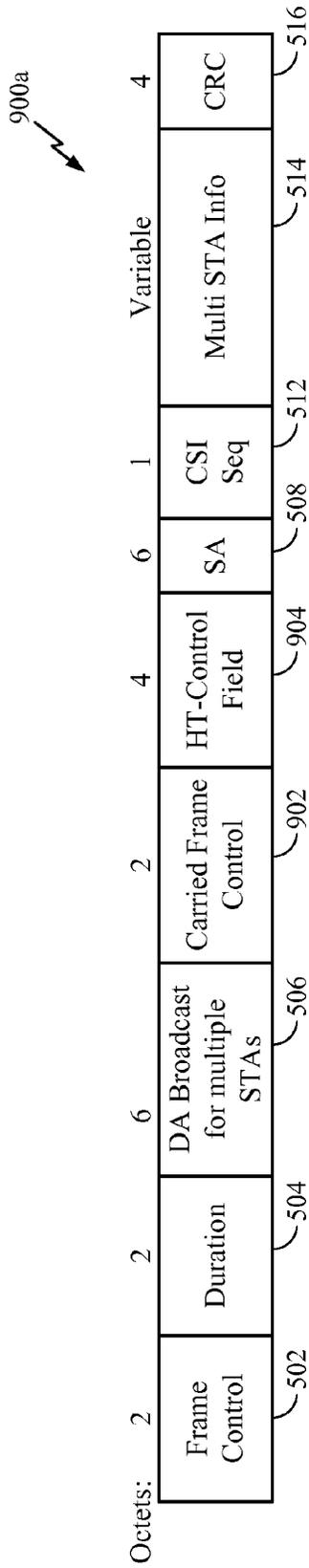


FIG. 9A

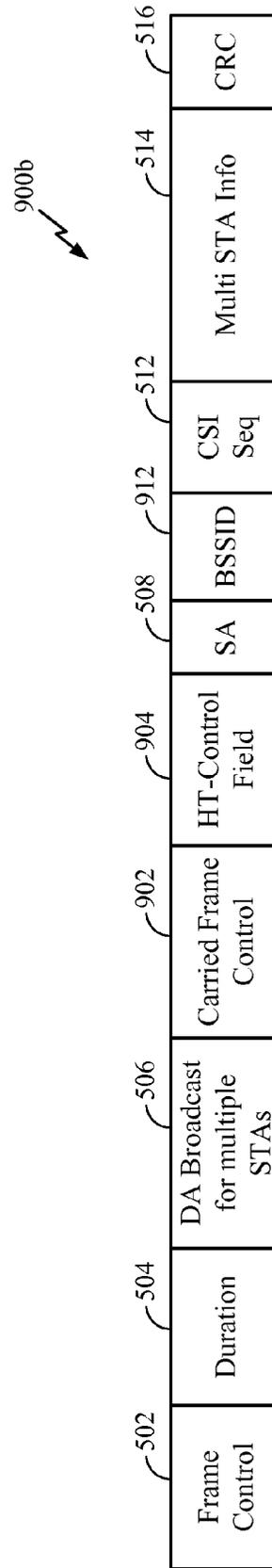


FIG. 9B

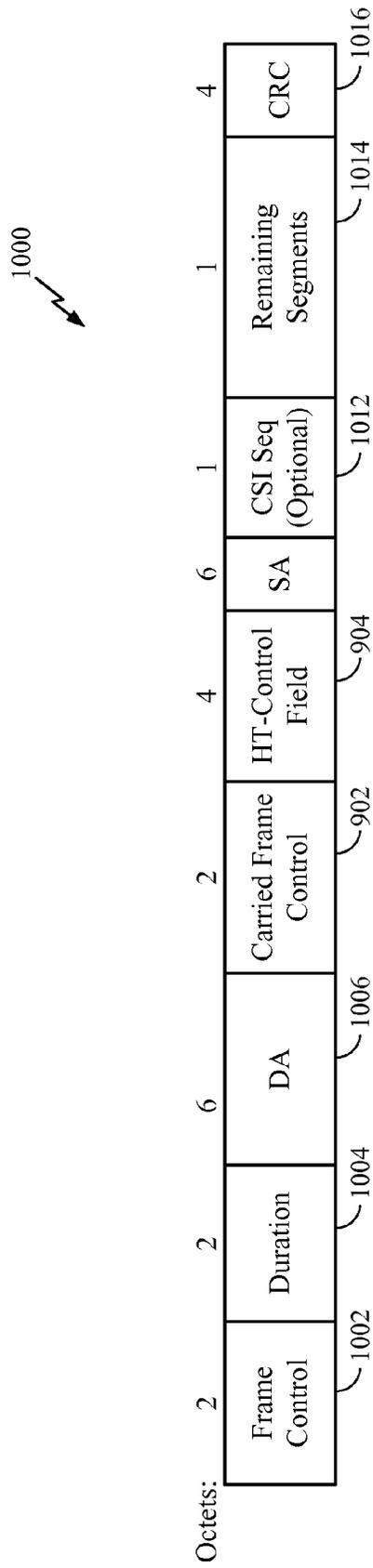


FIG. 10

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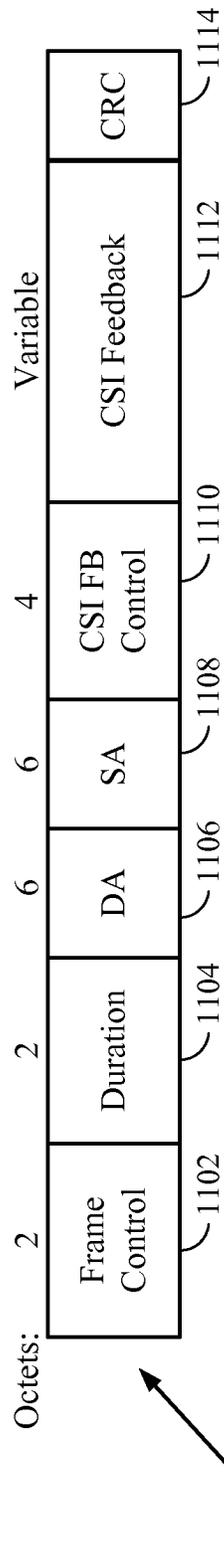


FIG. 11

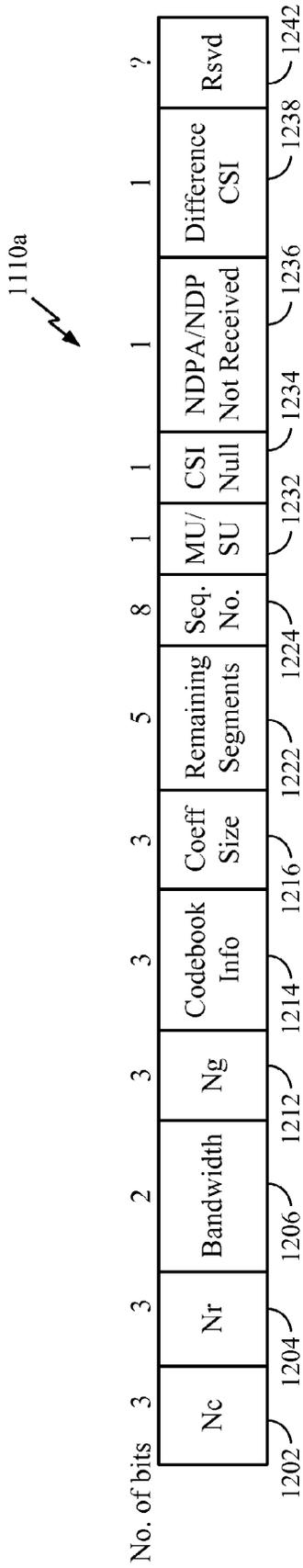


FIG. 12A

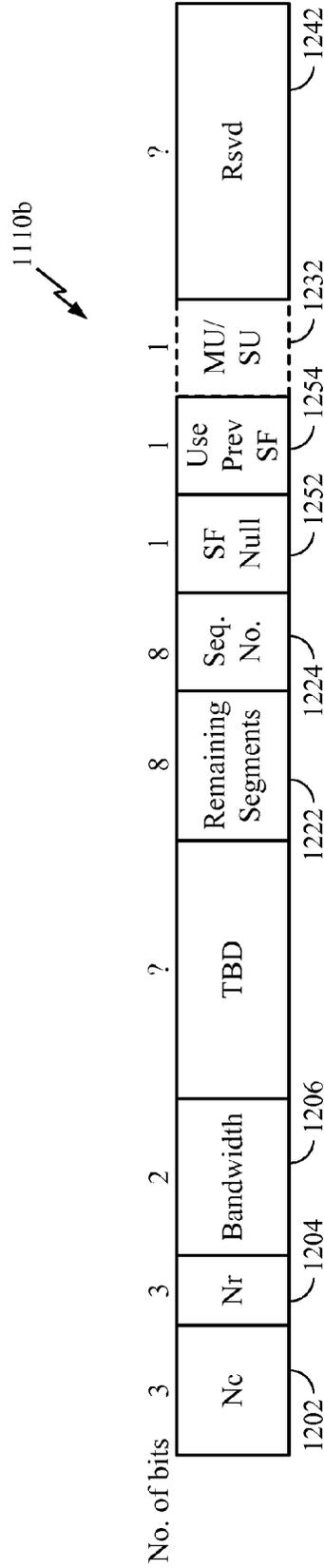


FIG. 12B

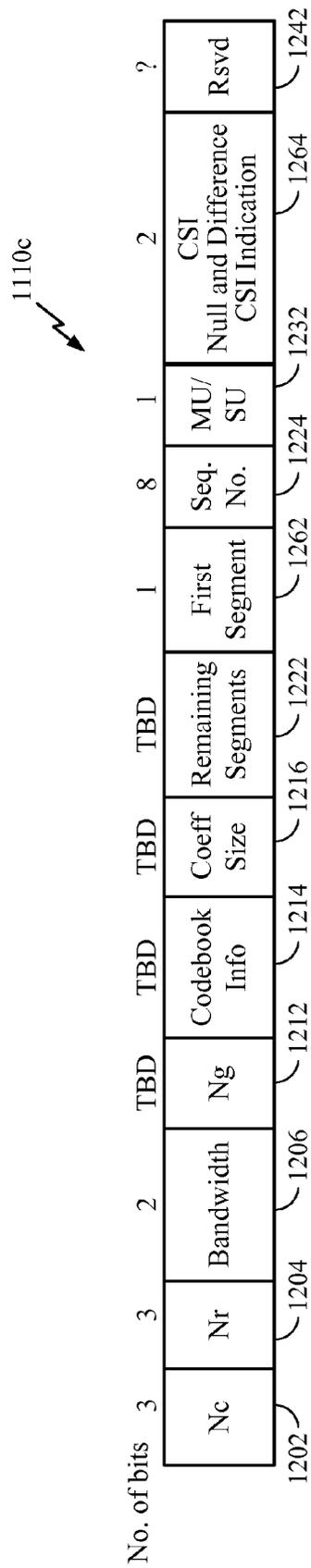


FIG. 12C

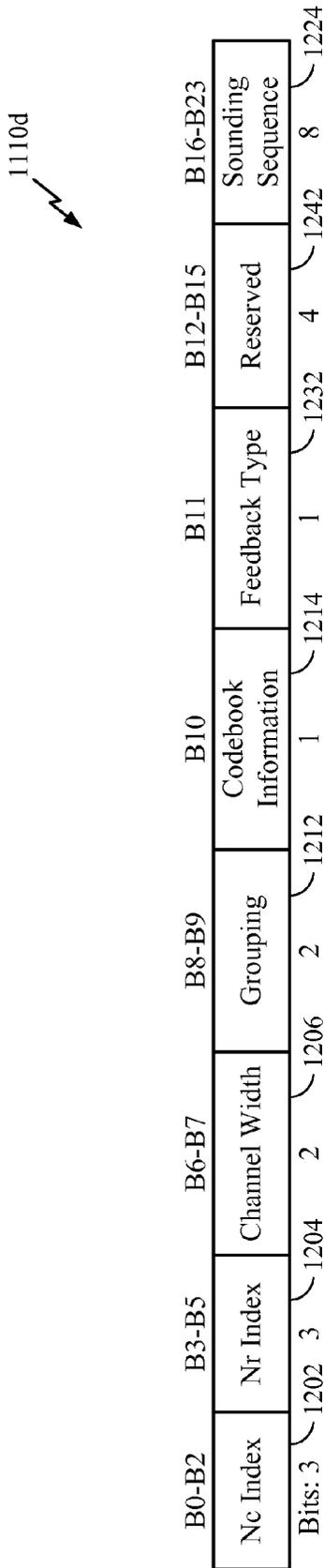


FIG. 12D

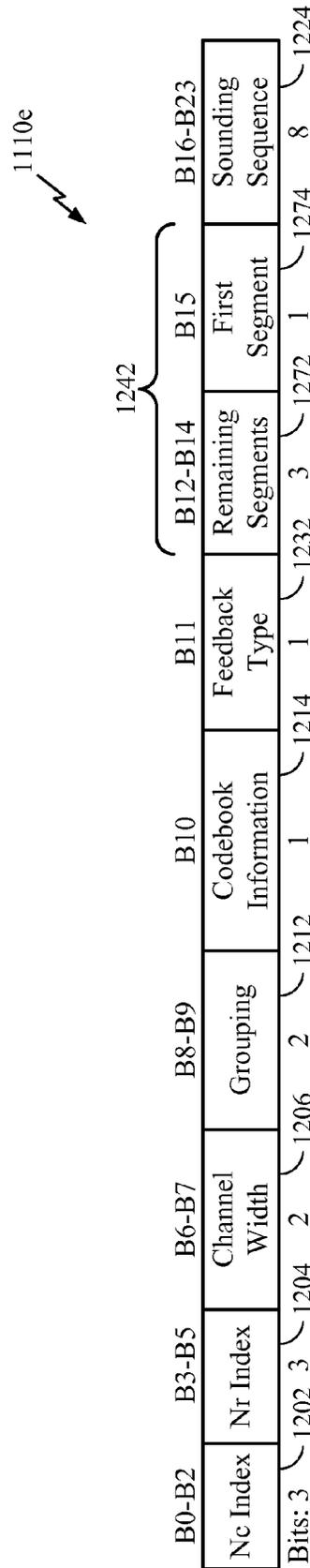


FIG. 12E

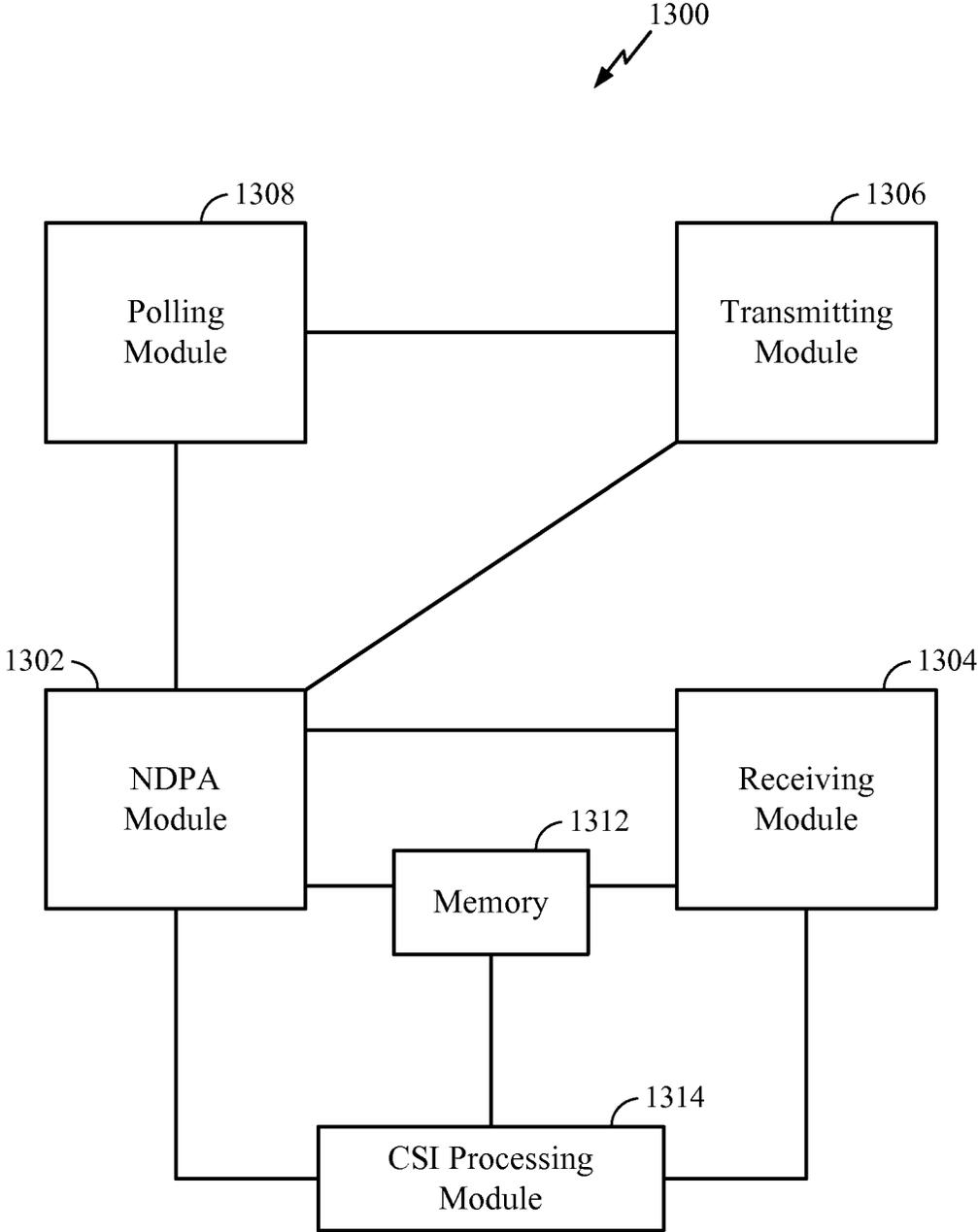


FIG. 13

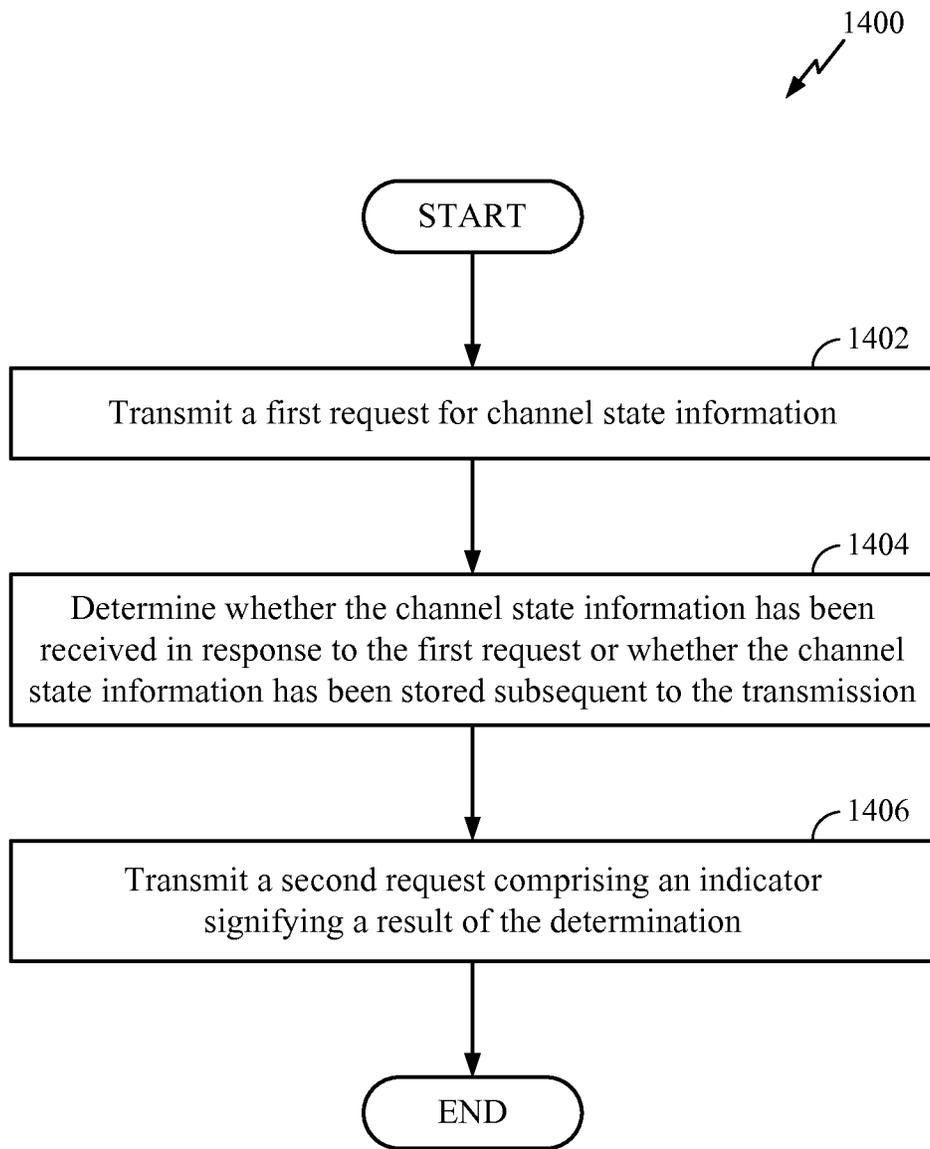


FIG. 14

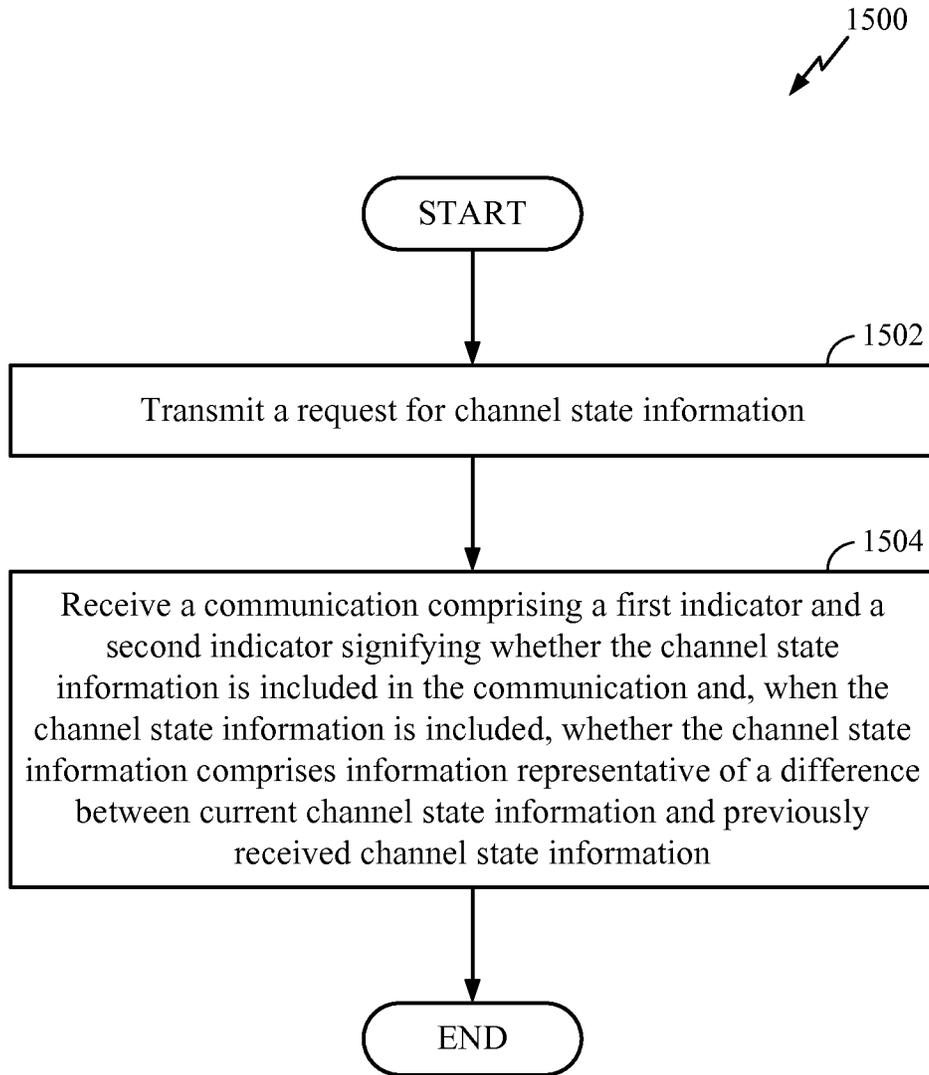


FIG. 15

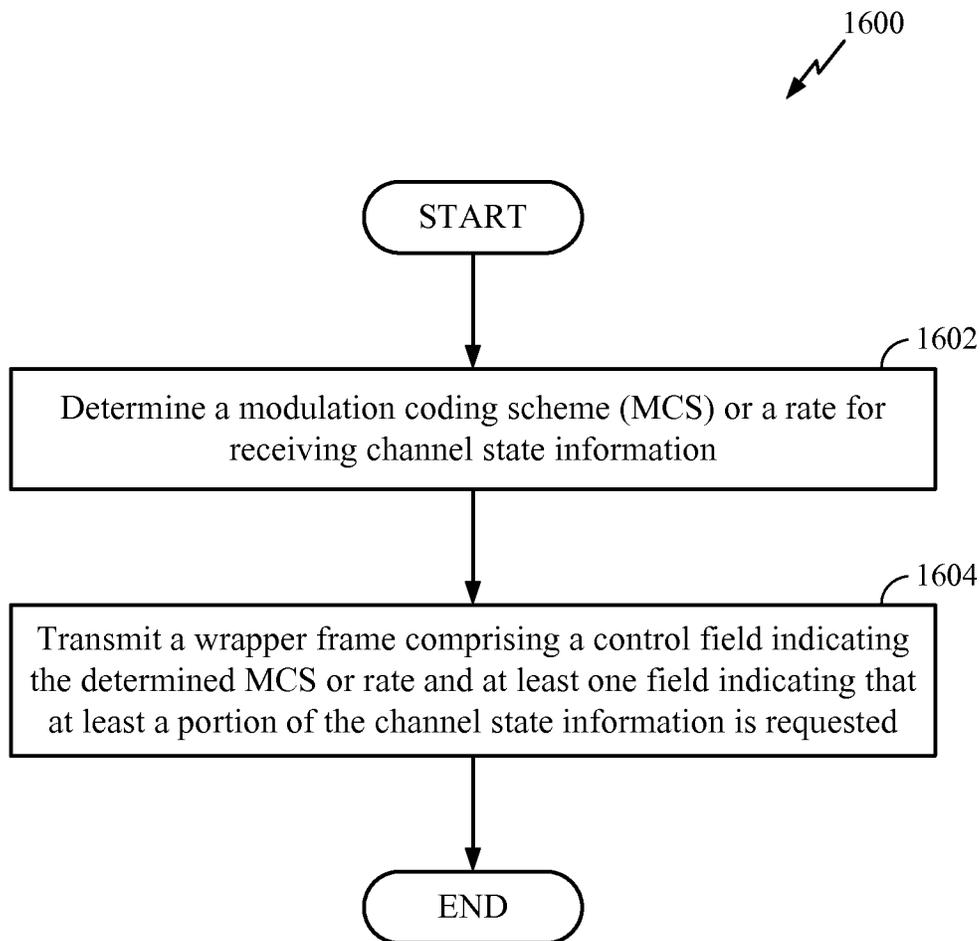


FIG. 16

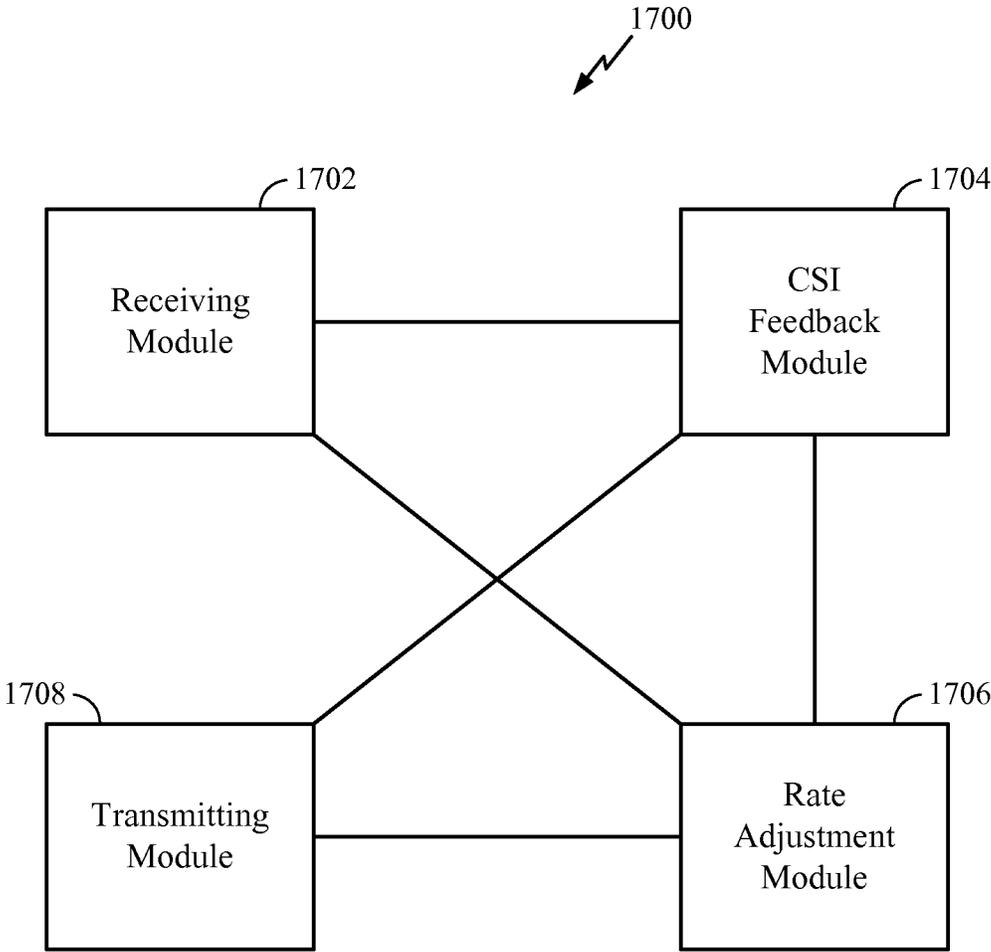


FIG. 17

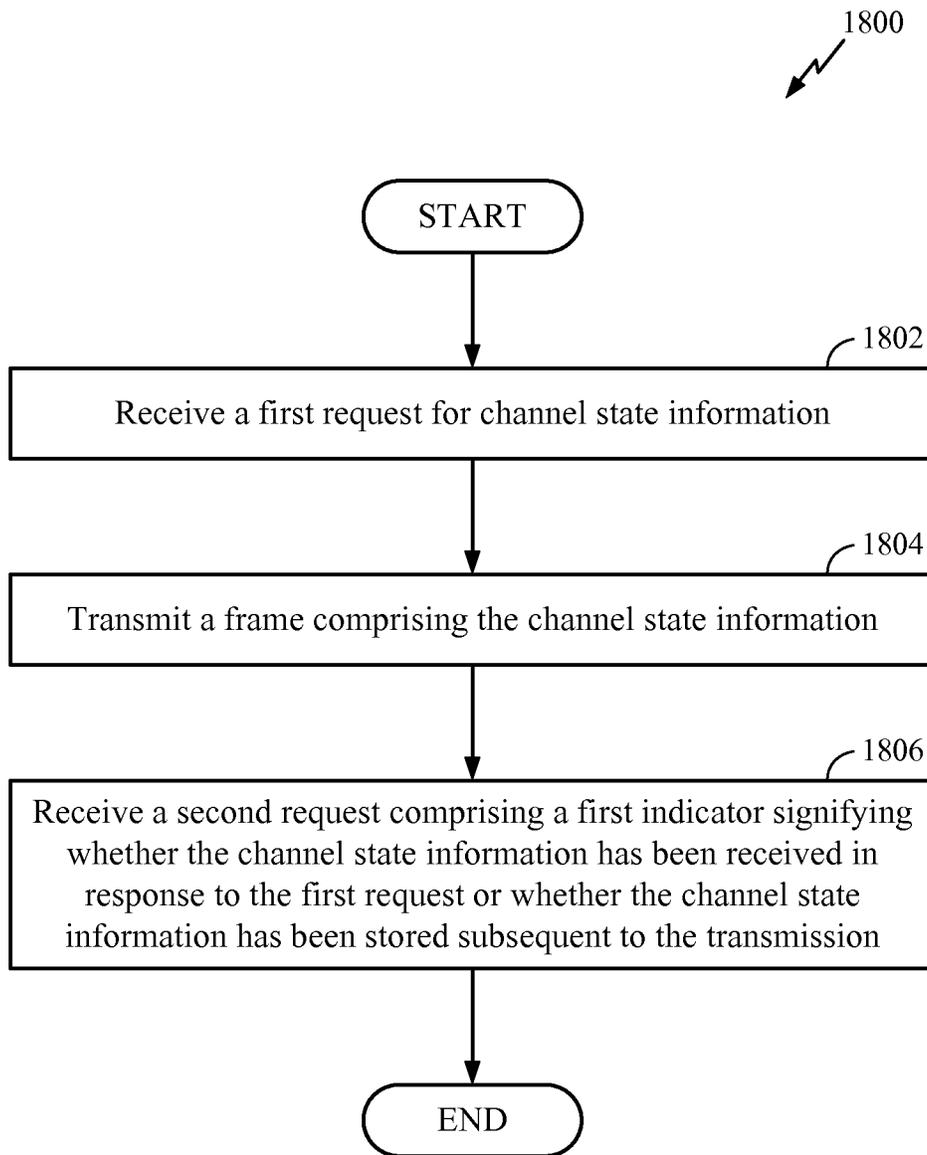


FIG. 18

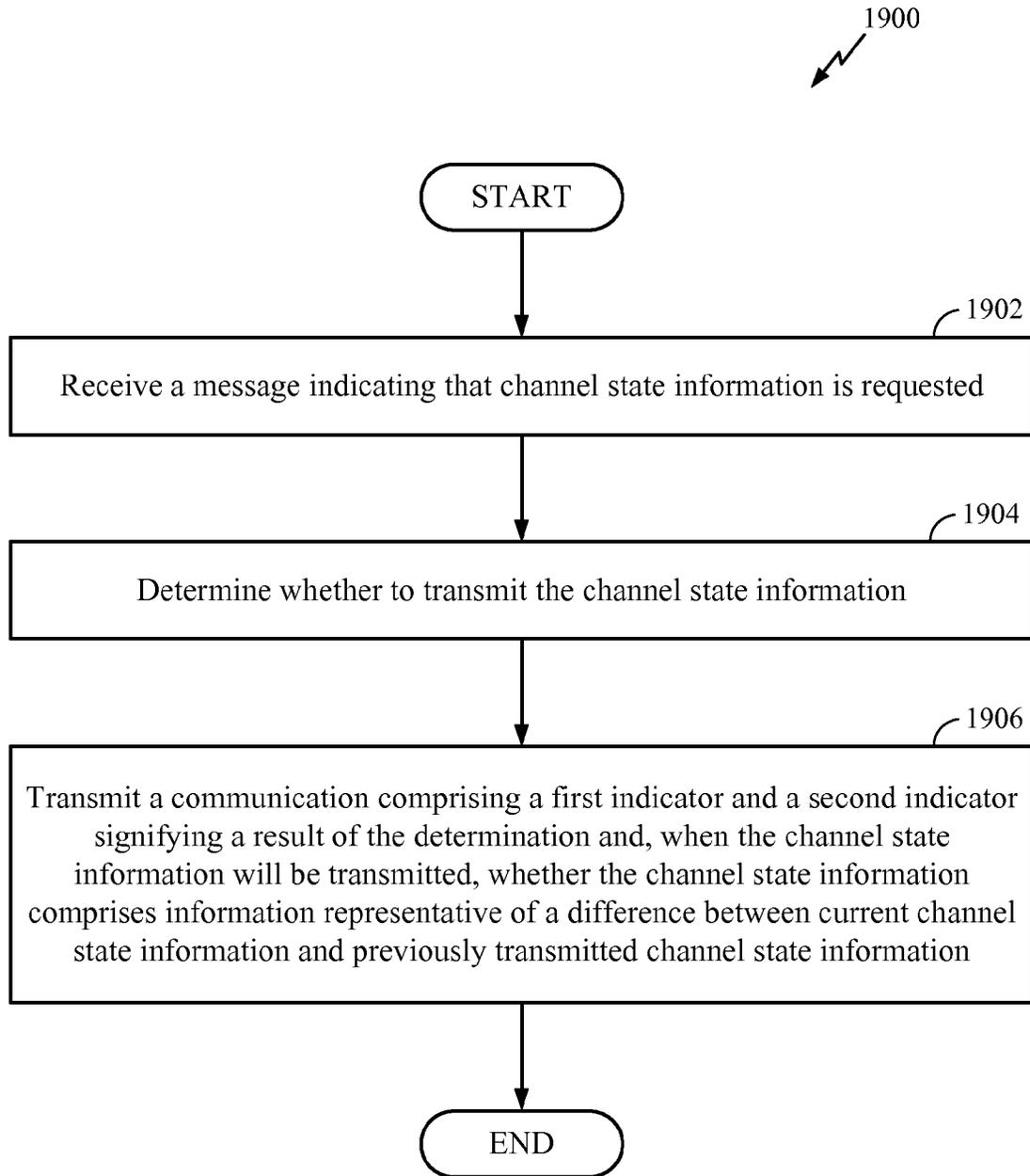


FIG. 19

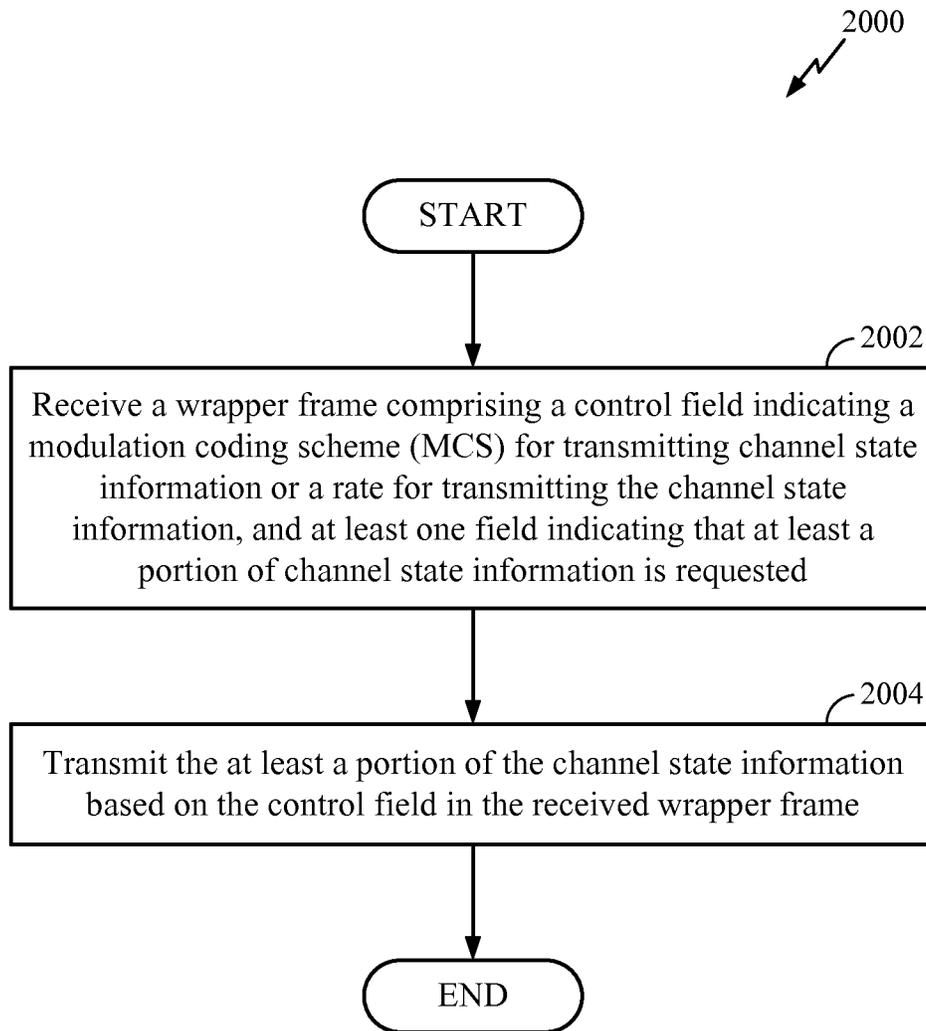


FIG. 20

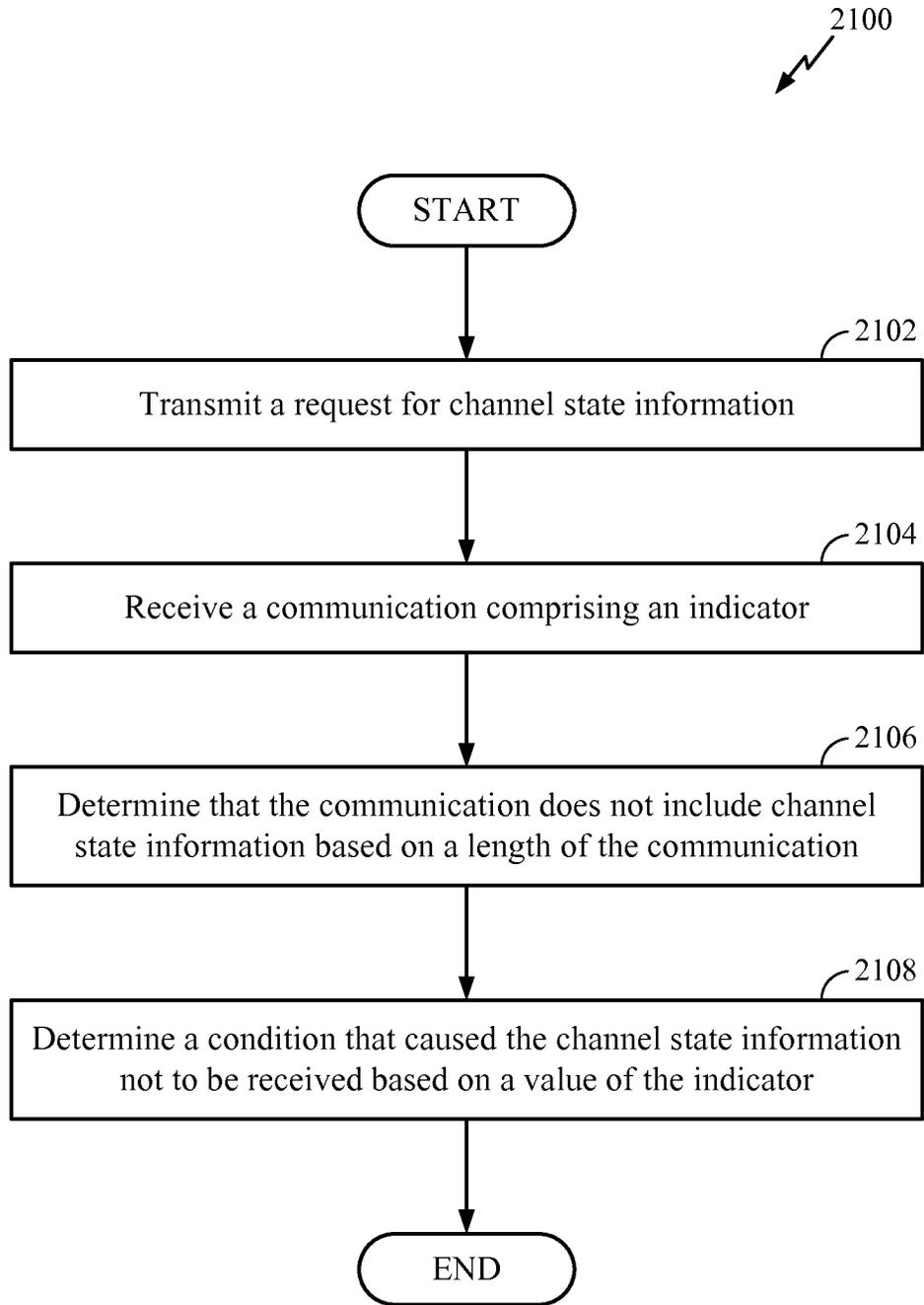


FIG. 21

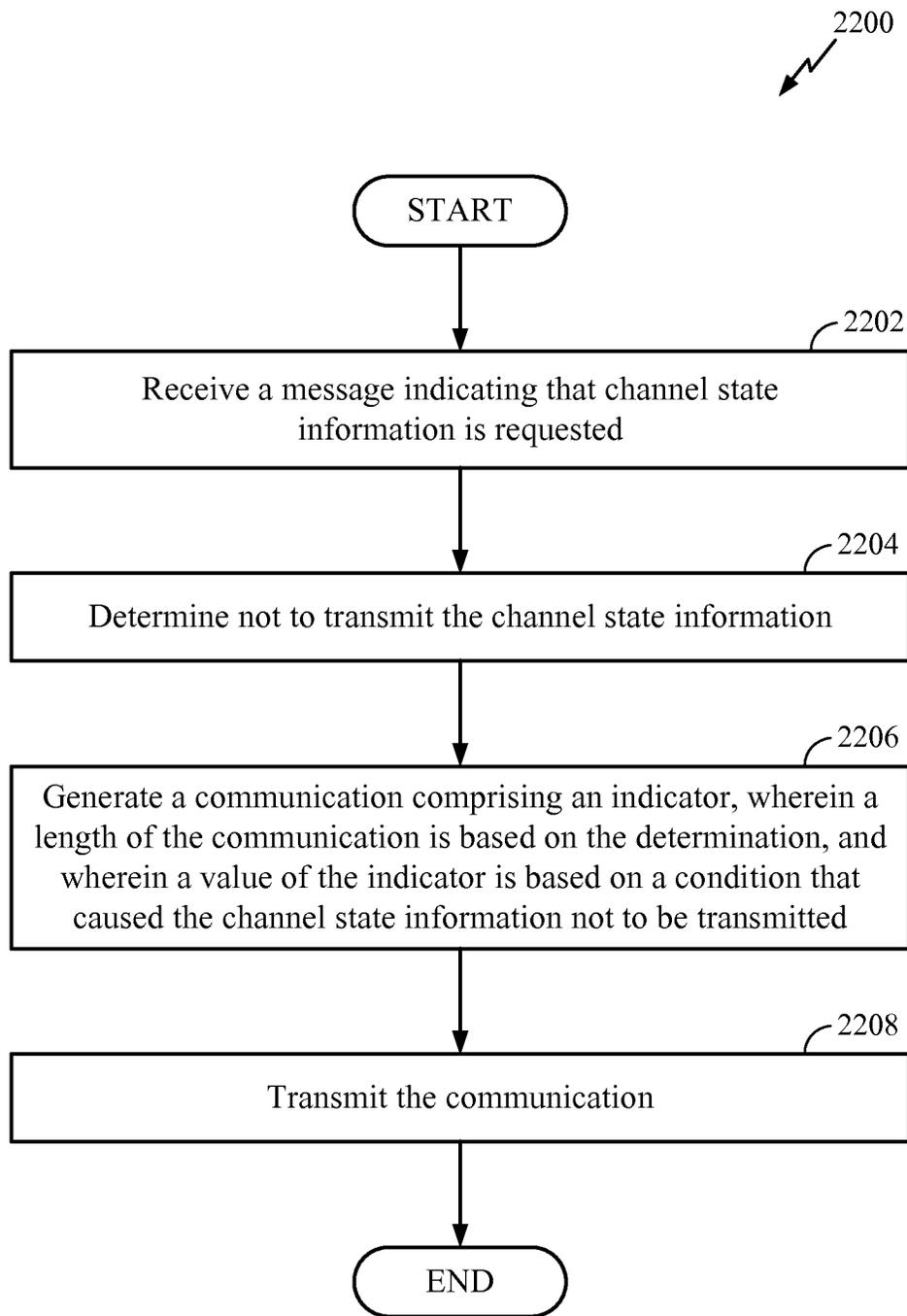


FIG. 22

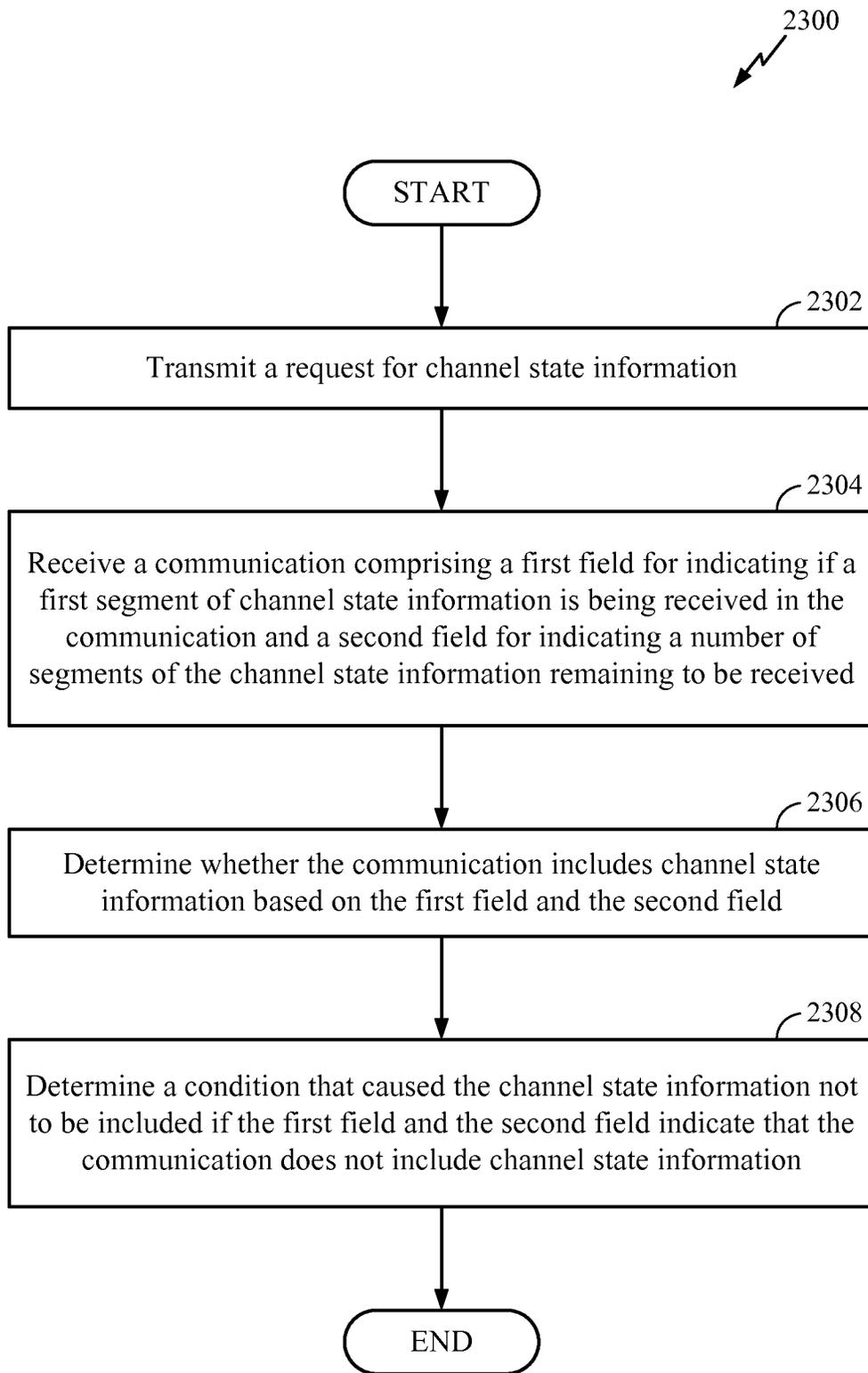


FIG. 23

2400 ↙

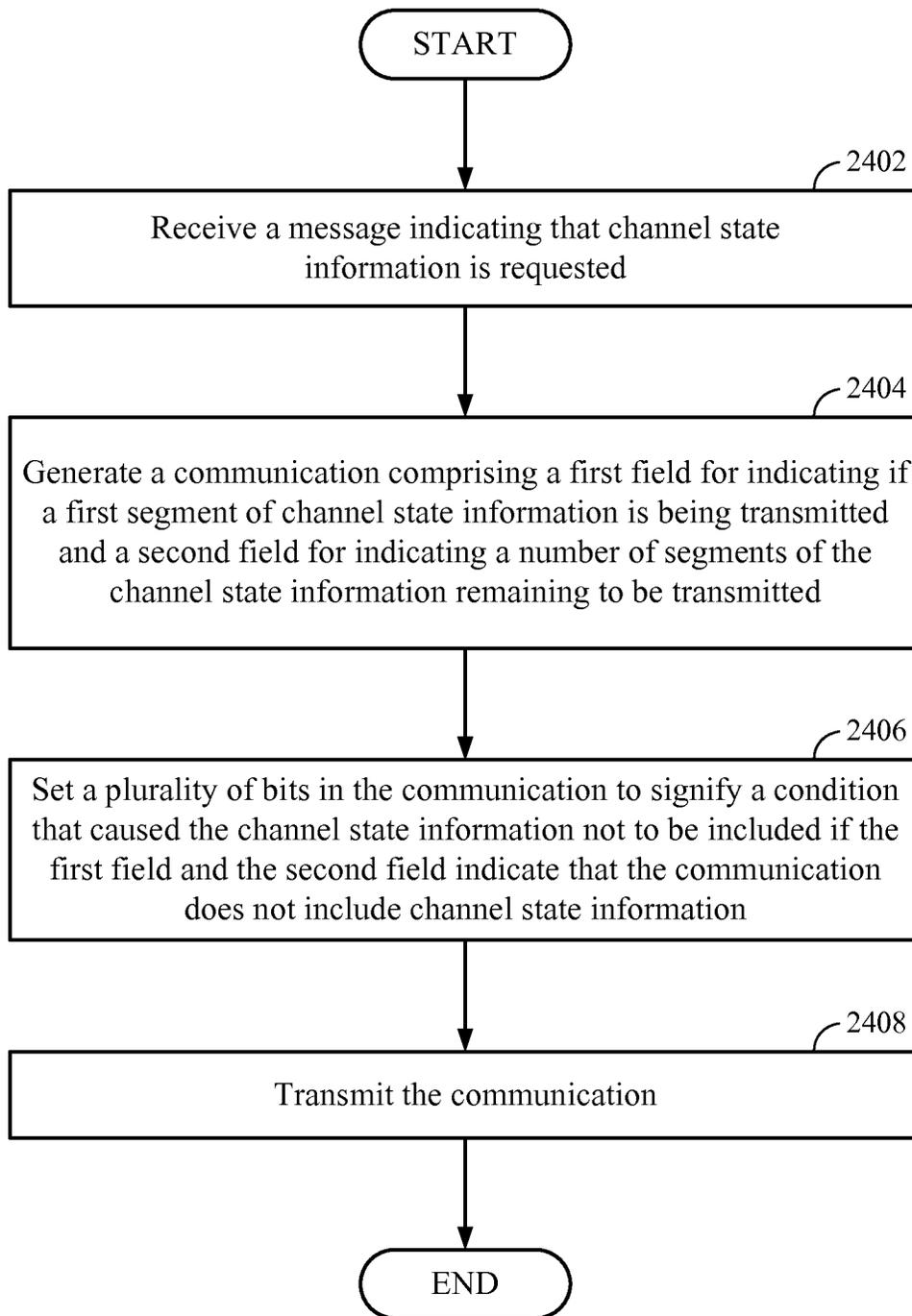


FIG. 24

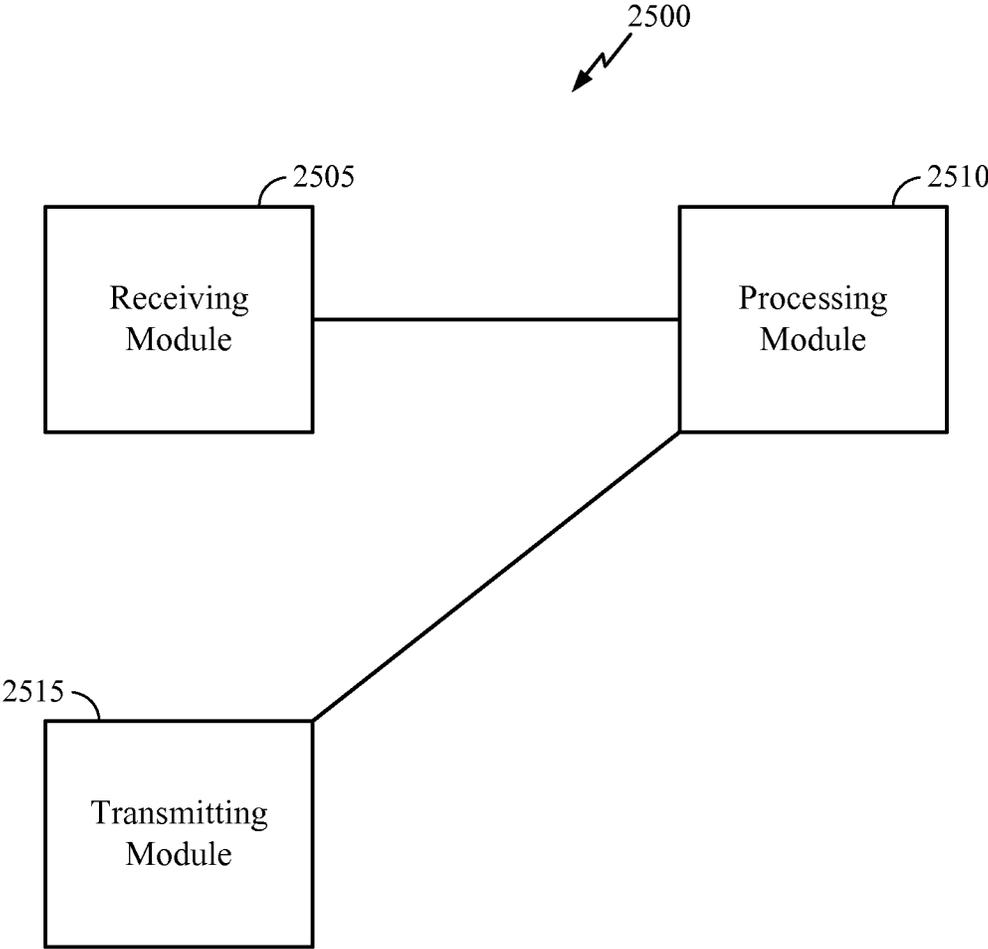


FIG. 25

**SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
COMMUNICATION OF CHANNEL STATE
INFORMATION**

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION(S)

This application is a Divisional of U.S. application Ser. No. 13/247,062, filed Sep. 28, 2011, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/387,542, filed Sep. 29, 2010; U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/389,495, filed Oct. 4, 2010; U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/405,283, filed Oct. 21, 2010; U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/422,098, filed Dec. 10, 2010; U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/432,115, filed Jan. 12, 2011; U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/405,194, filed Oct. 20, 2010; and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/409,645, filed Nov. 3, 2010; the entire content of each of which is incorporated herein by reference. This application further claims to the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/414,651, filed Nov. 17, 2010.

This application is related to U.S. application Ser. No. 13/247,023, titled "SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COMMUNICATION OF CHANNEL STATE INFORMATION," filed Sep. 28, 2011, U.S. application Ser. No. 13/247,047, titled "SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COMMUNICATION OF CHANNEL STATE INFORMATION," filed Sep. 28, 2011, U.S. application Ser. No. 13/247,086, titled "SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COMMUNICATION OF CHANNEL STATE INFORMATION," filed on even date herewith, U.S. application Ser. No. 13/247,100, titled "SYSTEMS, METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING CONTROL FIELD AND MODULATION CODING SCHEME INFORMATION," filed on even date herewith, U.S. application Ser. No. 13/247,124, titled "SYSTEMS, METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING CONTROL FIELD AND MODULATION CODING SCHEME INFORMATION," filed on even date herewith, U.S. application Ser. No. 13/247,144, titled "SYSTEMS, METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING CONTROL FIELD AND MODULATION CODING SCHEME INFORMATION," filed on even date herewith, each of which are incorporated herein by reference, in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

Field

Certain aspects of the present disclosure generally relate to wireless communications and, more particularly, to methods of communicating Channel State Information (CSI).

Background

In order to address the issue of increasing bandwidth requirements demanded for wireless communications systems, different schemes are being developed to allow multiple user terminals to communicate with a single access point by sharing the channel resources while achieving high data throughputs. Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO) technology represents one such approach that has recently emerged as a popular technique for next generation communication systems. MIMO technology has been adopted in several emerging wireless communications standards such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 standard. The IEEE 802.11 denotes a set of Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) air interface stan-

dards developed by the IEEE 802.11 committee for short-range communications (e.g., tens of meters to a few hundred meters).

A MIMO system employs multiple (N_T) transmit antennas and multiple (N_R) receive antennas for data transmission. A MIMO channel formed by the N_T transmit and N_R receive antennas may be decomposed into N_S independent channels, which are also referred to as spatial channels, where $N_S \leq \min\{N_T, N_R\}$. Each of the N_S independent channels corresponds to a dimension. The MIMO system can provide improved performance (e.g., higher throughput and/or greater reliability) if the additional dimensionalities created by the multiple transmit and receive antennas are utilized.

In wireless networks with a single Access Point (AP) and multiple user stations (STAs), concurrent transmissions may occur on multiple channels toward different stations, both in the uplink and downlink direction. Many challenges are present in such systems.

SUMMARY

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide an apparatus for wireless communication. The apparatus comprises a transmitter configured to transmit a request for channel state information. The apparatus comprises a receiver configured to receive a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is included in the communication. The apparatus comprises a processing system configured to process the communication based at least in part on the field.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide a method of wireless communication. The method comprises transmitting a request for channel state information. The method comprises receiving a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is included in the communication. The method comprises processing the communication based at least in part on the field.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide an apparatus for wireless communication. The apparatus comprises means for transmitting a request for channel state information. The apparatus comprises means receiving a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is included in the communication. The apparatus comprises means for processing the communication based at least in part on the field.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide a computer program product for wirelessly communicating comprising a computer readable medium comprising instructions. The instructions when executed cause an apparatus to transmit a request for channel state information. The instructions when executed cause an apparatus to receive a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is included in the communication. The instructions when executed cause an apparatus to process the communication based at least in part on the field.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide an access point. The access point comprises at least one antenna. The access point comprises a transmitter configured to transmit, via the at least one antenna, a request for channel state information. The access point comprises a receiver configured to receive a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is included in the communication. The access point comprises a processing system configured to process the communication based at least in part on the field.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide an apparatus for wireless communication. The apparatus comprises a receiver configured to receive a message indicating that channel state information is requested. The apparatus comprises a processing system configured to generate a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is being transmitted. The apparatus comprises a transmitter configured to transmit the communication.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide a method of wireless communication. The method comprises receiving a message indicating that channel state information is requested. The method comprises generating a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is being transmitted. The method comprises transmitting the communication.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide an apparatus for wireless communication. The apparatus comprises means for receiving a message indicating that channel state information is requested. The apparatus comprises means for generating a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is being transmitted. The apparatus comprises means for transmitting the communication.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide a computer program product for wirelessly communicating comprising a computer readable medium comprising instructions. The instructions when executed cause an apparatus to receive a message indicating that channel state information is requested. The instructions when executed cause an apparatus to generate a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is being transmitted. The instructions when executed cause an apparatus to transmit the communication.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure provide an access terminal. The access terminal comprises at least one antenna. The access terminal comprises a receiver configured to receive, via the at least one antenna, a message indicating that channel state information is requested. The access terminal comprises a processing system configured to generate a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is being transmitted. The access terminal comprises a transmitter configured to transmit the communication.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

So that the manner in which the above-recited features of the present disclosure can be understood in detail, a more particular description, briefly summarized above, may be had by reference to aspects, some of which are illustrated in the appended drawings. It is to be noted, however, that the appended drawings illustrate only certain typical aspects of this disclosure and are therefore not to be considered limiting of its scope, for the description may admit to other equally effective aspects.

FIG. 1 illustrates a diagram of a wireless communications network in accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2 illustrates a block diagram of an example access point and user terminals in accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure.

FIG. 3 illustrates a block diagram of an example wireless device in accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure.

FIG. 4 illustrates an aspect of a Channel State Information (CSI) feedback protocol.

FIG. 5 illustrates an aspect of an NDPA frame.

FIGS. 6A-6C illustrate aspects of an STA information field.

FIGS. 7A-7C illustrate aspects of STA information included in the STA information field illustrated in FIGS. 6A-6C.

FIG. 8 illustrates an aspect of an NDPA frame.

FIGS. 9A and 9B illustrate aspects of a control wrapper.

FIG. 10 illustrates an aspect of a control wrapper.

FIG. 11 illustrates an aspect of a CSI report message for communicating CSI feedback.

FIGS. 12A-12E illustrate aspects of a control field for sounding feedback.

FIG. 13 illustrates an aspect of an access point.

FIG. 14 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 15 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 16 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 17 illustrates an aspect of an access terminal.

FIG. 18 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 19 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 20 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 21 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 22 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 23 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 24 illustrates an aspect of a method of communication.

FIG. 25 illustrates a block diagram of an example access point 2500 in accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Various aspects of the disclosure are described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings. This disclosure may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to any specific structure or function presented throughout this disclosure. Rather, these aspects are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the disclosure to those skilled in the art. Based on the teachings herein one skilled in the art should appreciate that the scope of the disclosure is intended to cover any aspect of the disclosure herein, whether implemented independently of or combined with any other aspect of the disclosure. For example, an apparatus may be implemented or a method may be practiced using any number of the aspects set forth herein. In addition, the scope of the disclosure is intended to cover such an apparatus or method which is practiced using other structure, functionality, or structure and functionality in addition to or other than the various aspects of the disclosure set forth herein. It should be understood that any aspect of the disclosure disclosed herein may be embodied by one or more elements of a claim.

Although particular aspects are described herein, many variations and permutations of these aspects fall within the scope of the disclosure. Although some benefits and advantages of the described aspects are mentioned, the scope of the disclosure is not intended to be limited to particular

benefits, uses, or objectives. Rather, aspects of the disclosure are intended to be broadly applicable to different wireless technologies, system configurations, networks, and transmission protocols, some of which are illustrated by way of example in the figures and in the following description of aspects. The detailed description and drawings are merely illustrative of the disclosure rather than limiting.

An Example Wireless Communication System

The techniques described herein may be used for various broadband wireless communication systems, including communication systems that are based on an orthogonal multiplexing scheme. Examples of such communication systems include Spatial Division Multiple Access (SDMA), Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA), Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) systems, Single-Carrier Frequency Division Multiple Access (SC-FDMA) systems, and so forth. An SDMA system may utilize sufficiently different directions to simultaneously transmit data belonging to multiple user terminals. A TDMA system may allow multiple user terminals to share the same frequency channel by dividing the transmission signal into different time slots, each time slot being assigned to different user terminal. A TDMA system may implement GSM or some other standards known in the art. An OFDMA system utilizes orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM), which is a modulation technique that partitions the overall system bandwidth into multiple orthogonal sub-carriers. These sub-carriers may also be called tones, bins, etc. With OFDM, each sub-carrier may be independently modulated with data. An OFDM system may implement IEEE 802.11 or some other standards known in the art. An SC-FDMA system may utilize interleaved FDMA (IFDMA) to transmit on sub-carriers that are distributed across the system bandwidth, localized FDMA (LFDMA) to transmit on a block of adjacent sub-carriers, or enhanced FDMA (EFDMA) to transmit on multiple blocks of adjacent sub-carriers. In general, modulation symbols are sent in the frequency domain with OFDM and in the time domain with SC-FDMA. A SC-FDMA system may implement 3GPP-LTE (3rd Generation Partnership Project Long Term Evolution) or other standards.

The teachings herein may be incorporated into (e.g., implemented within or performed by) a variety of wired or wireless apparatuses (e.g., nodes). In some aspects, a wireless node implemented in accordance with the teachings herein may comprise an access point or an access terminal.

An access point ("AP") may comprise, be implemented as, or known as a NodeB, Radio Network Controller ("RNC"), eNodeB, Base Station Controller ("BSC"), Base Transceiver Station ("BTS"), Base Station ("BS"), Transceiver Function ("TF"), Radio Router, Radio Transceiver, Basic Service Set ("BSS"), Extended Service Set ("ESS"), Radio Base Station ("RBS"), or some other terminology.

An access terminal ("AT") may comprise, be implemented as, or known as an access terminal, a subscriber station, a subscriber unit, a mobile station, a remote station, a remote terminal, a user terminal, a user agent, a user device, user equipment, a user station, or some other terminology. In some implementations an access terminal may comprise a cellular telephone, a cordless telephone, a Session Initiation Protocol ("SIP") phone, a wireless local loop ("WLL") station, a personal digital assistant ("PDA"), a handheld device having wireless connection capability, a Station ("STA"), or some other suitable processing device connected to a wireless modem. Accordingly, one or more

aspects taught herein may be incorporated into a phone (e.g., a cellular phone or smart phone), a computer (e.g., a laptop), a portable communication device, a portable computing device (e.g., a personal data assistant), an entertainment device (e.g., a music or video device, or a satellite radio), a global positioning system device, or any other suitable device that is configured to communicate via a wireless or wired medium. In some aspects the node is a wireless node. Such wireless node may provide, for example, connectivity for or to a network (e.g., a wide area network such as the Internet or a cellular network) via a wired or wireless communication link.

FIG. 1 illustrates a multiple-access multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system **100** with access points and user terminals. For simplicity, only one access point **110** is shown in FIG. 1. An access point is generally a fixed station that communicates with the user terminals and may also be referred to as a base station or using some other terminology. A user terminal may be fixed or mobile and may also be referred to as a mobile station or a wireless device, or using some other terminology. The access point **110** may communicate with one or more user terminals **120** at any given moment on the downlink and uplink. The downlink (i.e., forward link) is the communication link from the access point to the user terminals, and the uplink (i.e., reverse link) is the communication link from the user terminals to the access point. A user terminal may also communicate peer-to-peer with another user terminal. A system controller **130** couples to and provides coordination and control for the access points.

While portions of the following disclosure will describe user terminals **120** capable of communicating via Spatial Division Multiple Access (SDMA), for certain aspects, the user terminals **120** may also include some user terminals that do not support SDMA. Thus, for such aspects, the AP **110** may be configured to communicate with both SDMA and non-SDMA user terminals. This approach may conveniently allow older versions of user terminals ("legacy" stations) that do not support SDMA to remain deployed in an enterprise, extending their useful lifetime, while allowing newer SDMA user terminals to be introduced as deemed appropriate.

The system **100** employs multiple transmit and multiple receive antennas for data transmission on the downlink and uplink. The access point **110** is equipped with N_{ap} antennas and represents the multiple-input (MI) for downlink transmissions and the multiple-output (MO) for uplink transmissions. A set of K selected user terminals **120** collectively represents the multiple-output for downlink transmissions and the multiple-input for uplink transmissions. For pure SDMA, it is desired to have $N_{ap} \geq K \geq 1$ if the data symbol streams for the K user terminals are not multiplexed in code, frequency or time by some means. K may be greater than N_{ap} if the data symbol streams can be multiplexed using TDMA technique, different code channels with CDMA, disjoint sets of sub-bands with OFDM, and so on. Each selected user terminal may transmit user-specific data to and/or receive user-specific data from the access point. In general, each selected user terminal may be equipped with one or multiple antennas (i.e., $N_{ut} \geq 1$). The K selected user terminals can have the same number of antennas, or one or more user terminals may have a different number of antennas.

The SDMA system **100** may be a time division duplex (TDD) system or a frequency division duplex (FDD) system. For a TDD system, the downlink and uplink share the same frequency band. For an FDD system, the downlink and

uplink use different frequency bands. The MIMO system **100** may also utilize a single carrier or multiple carriers for transmission. Each user terminal may be equipped with a single antenna (e.g., in order to keep costs down) or multiple antennas (e.g., where the additional cost can be supported). The system **100** may also be a TDMA system if the user terminals **120** share the same frequency channel by dividing transmission/reception into different time slots, where each time slot may be assigned to a different user terminal **120**.

FIG. 2 illustrates a block diagram of the access point **110** and two user terminals **120m** and **120x** in MIMO system **100**. The access point **110** is equipped with N_t antennas **224a** through **224ap**. The user terminal **120m** is equipped with $N_{ut,m}$ antennas **252ma** through **252mu**, and the user terminal **120x** is equipped with $N_{ut,x}$ antennas **252xa** through **252xu**. The access point **110** is a transmitting entity for the downlink and a receiving entity for the uplink. The user terminal **120** is a transmitting entity for the uplink and a receiving entity for the downlink. As used herein, a “transmitting entity” is an independently operated apparatus or device capable of transmitting data via a wireless channel, and a “receiving entity” is an independently operated apparatus or device capable of receiving data via a wireless channel. In the following description, the subscript “dn” denotes the downlink, the subscript “up” denotes the uplink, N_{up} user terminals are selected for simultaneous transmission on the uplink, and N_{dn} user terminals are selected for simultaneous transmission on the downlink. N_{up} may or may not be equal to N_{dn} , and N_{up} and N_{dn} may be static values or may change for each scheduling interval. Beam-steering or some other spatial processing technique may be used at the access point **110** and/or the user terminal **120**.

On the uplink, at each user terminal **120** selected for uplink transmission, a TX data processor **288** receives traffic data from a data source **286** and control data from a controller **280**. The TX data processor **288** processes (e.g., encodes, interleaves, and modulates) the traffic data for the user terminal based on the coding and modulation schemes associated with the rate selected for the user terminal and provides a data symbol stream. A TX spatial processor **290** performs spatial processing on the data symbol stream and provides $N_{ut,m}$ transmit symbol streams for the $N_{ut,m}$ antennas. Each transmitter unit (TMTR) **254** receives and processes (e.g., converts to analog, amplifies, filters, and frequency upconverts) a respective transmit symbol stream to generate an uplink signal. $N_{ut,m}$ transmitter units **254** provide $N_{ut,m}$ uplink signals for transmission from $N_{ut,m}$ antennas **252**, for example to transmit to the access point **110**.

N_{up} user terminals may be scheduled for simultaneous transmission on the uplink. Each of these user terminals may perform spatial processing on its respective data symbol stream and transmit its respective set of transmit symbol streams on the uplink to the access point **110**.

At the access point **110**, N_{ap} antennas **224a** through **224ap** receive the uplink signals from all N_{up} user terminals transmitting on the uplink. Each antenna **224** provides a received signal to a respective receiver unit (RCVR) **222**. Each receiver unit **222** performs processing complementary to that performed by transmitter unit **254** and provides a received symbol stream. An RX spatial processor **240** performs receiver spatial processing on the N_{ap} received symbol streams from N_{ap} receiver units **222** and provides N_{up} recovered uplink data symbol streams. The receiver spatial processing may be performed in accordance with the channel correlation matrix inversion (CCMI), minimum mean square error (MMSE), soft interference cancellation (SIC), or some other technique. Each recovered uplink data symbol

stream is an estimate of a data symbol stream transmitted by a respective user terminal. An RX data processor **242** processes (e.g., demodulates, deinterleaves, and decodes) each recovered uplink data symbol stream in accordance with the rate used for that stream to obtain decoded data. The decoded data for each user terminal may be provided to a data sink **244** for storage and/or a controller **230** for further processing.

On the downlink, at the access point **110**, a TX data processor **210** receives traffic data from a data source **208** for N_{dn} user terminals scheduled for downlink transmission, control data from a controller **230**, and possibly other data from a scheduler **234**. The various types of data may be sent on different transport channels. TX data processor **210** processes (e.g., encodes, interleaves, and modulates) the traffic data for each user terminal based on the rate selected for that user terminal. The TX data processor **210** provides N_{dn} downlink data symbol streams for the N_{dn} user terminals. A TX spatial processor **220** performs spatial processing (such as a precoding or beamforming) on the N_{dn} downlink data symbol streams, and provides N_{ap} transmit symbol streams for the N_{ap} antennas. Each transmitter unit **222** receives and processes a respective transmit symbol stream to generate a downlink signal. N_{ap} transmitter units **222** may provide N_{ap} downlink signals for transmission from N_{ap} antennas **224**, for example to transmit to the user terminals **120**.

At each user terminal **120**, $N_{ut,m}$ antennas **252** receive the N_{ap} downlink signals from the access point **110**. Each receiver unit **254** processes a received signal from an associated antenna **252** and provides a received symbol stream. An RX spatial processor **260** performs receiver spatial processing on $N_{ut,m}$ received symbol streams from $N_{ut,m}$ receiver units **254** and provides a recovered downlink data symbol stream for the user terminal **120**. The receiver spatial processing may be performed in accordance with the CCMI, MMSE, or some other technique. An RX data processor **270** processes (e.g., demodulates, deinterleaves and decodes) the recovered downlink data symbol stream to obtain decoded data for the user terminal.

At each user terminal **120**, a channel estimator **278** estimates the downlink channel response and provides downlink channel estimates, which may include channel gain estimates, SNR estimates, noise variance and so on. Similarly, a channel estimator **228** estimates the uplink channel response and provides uplink channel estimates. Controller **280** for each user terminal typically derives the spatial filter matrix for the user terminal based on the downlink channel response matrix $H_{dn,m}$ for that user terminal. Controller **230** derives the spatial filter matrix for the access point based on the effective uplink channel response matrix $H_{up,eff}$. The controller **280** for each user terminal may send feedback information (e.g., the downlink and/or uplink eigenvectors, eigenvalues, SNR estimates, and so on) to the access point **110**. The controllers **230** and **280** may also control the operation of various processing units at the access point **110** and user terminal **120**, respectively.

FIG. 3 illustrates various components that may be utilized in a wireless device **302** that may be employed within the wireless communication system **100**. The wireless device **302** is an example of a device that may be configured to implement the various methods described herein. The wireless device **302** may implement an access point **110** or a user terminal **120**.

The wireless device **302** may include a processor **304** which controls operation of the wireless device **302**. The processor **304** may also be referred to as a central processing

unit (CPU). Memory **306**, which may include both read-only memory (ROM) and random access memory (RAM), provides instructions and data to the processor **304**. A portion of the memory **306** may also include non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM). The processor **304** may perform logical and arithmetic operations based on program instructions stored within the memory **306**. The instructions in the memory **306** may be executable to implement the methods described herein.

The processor **304** may comprise or be a component of a processing system implemented with one or more processors. The one or more processors may be implemented with any combination of general-purpose microprocessors, microcontrollers, digital signal processors (DSPs), field programmable gate array (FPGAs), programmable logic devices (PLDs), controllers, state machines, gated logic, discrete hardware components, dedicated hardware finite state machines, or any other suitable entities that can perform calculations or other manipulations of information.

The processing system may also include machine-readable media for storing software. Software shall be construed broadly to mean any type of instructions, whether referred to as software, firmware, middleware, microcode, hardware description language, or otherwise. Instructions may include code (e.g., in source code format, binary code format, executable code format, or any other suitable format of code). The instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the processing system to perform the various functions described herein.

The wireless device **302** may also include a housing **308** that may include a transmitter **310** and a receiver **312** to allow transmission and reception of data between the wireless device **302** and a remote location. The transmitter **310** and receiver **312** may be combined into a transceiver **314**. A single or a plurality of transmit antennas **316** may be attached to the housing **308** and electrically coupled to the transceiver **314**. The wireless device **302** may also include (not shown) multiple transmitters, multiple receivers, and multiple transceivers.

The wireless device **302** may also include a signal detector **318** that may be used in an effort to detect and quantify the level of signals received by the transceiver **314**. The signal detector **318** may detect such signals as total energy, energy per subcarrier per symbol, power spectral density and other signals. The wireless device **302** may also include a digital signal processor (DSP) **320** for use in processing signals.

The various components of the wireless device **302** may be coupled together by a bus system **322**, which may include a power bus, a control signal bus, and a status signal bus in addition to a data bus.

In some aspects, the wireless system **100** illustrated in FIG. **1** operates in accordance with IEEE 802.11ac wireless communications standard. The IEEE 802.11ac represents a IEEE 802.11 amendment that allows for higher throughput in IEEE 802.11 wireless networks. The higher throughput may be realized through several measures, for example parallel transmissions to multiple stations (STAs) at once. In some aspects, a wider channel bandwidth (e.g., 80 MHz or 160 MHz) is used. The IEEE 802.11ac standard may also sometimes be referred to as Very High Throughput (VHT) wireless communications standard.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure support a low-overhead method for communicating Channel State Information (CSI) or feedback therefore. For example, such information may be communicated between the user terminals **120** and the access point **110** in the wireless system **100**.

Certain aspects of the present disclosure further support packet formats for a Null Data Packet Announcement (NDPA), CSI poll, and CSI feedback. Some aspects support a communication indicating whether CSI has been received and/or stored, for example by or at an AP. This information may be used by an STA, for example, to determine whether to send further CSI and/or whether to adjust parameters for transmitting the CSI. Some aspects support a communication indicating whether CSI is being transmitted, for example by an STA. This information may be used by an AP, for example, to determine how to transmit requests for requests for the CSI and/or whether to adjust parameters for transmitting the CSI requests. In some cases, the CSI feedback may be too large to be carried in a single Media Access Control (MAC) protocol data unit (MPDU) or a Physical Layer (PHY) protocol data unit (PPDU). Certain aspects of the present disclosure further support a protocol for CSI feedback segmentation. In the following description, reference is made to a user station (STA). As described above, a STA may comprise a user terminal, for example the user terminal **120** or the wireless device **302**.

Channel State Information

FIG. **4** illustrates an aspect of a Channel State Information (CSI) feedback protocol **400**. An access point (AP) may transmit to one or more user stations (STAs) a Null Data Packet Announcement (NDPA) frame **402** followed by a Null Data Packet (NDP) frame **404** after a Short Inter-Frame Symbol (SIFS) period **406**. The NDPA frame **402** may comprise Association Identifiers (AIDs) of the STAs that should transmit computed CSI feedback messages to the AP, as will be described in additional detail below.

Those STAs that are not identified in the NDPA may ignore the following NDP frame **404**. The NDP frame **404** may comprise a sounding frame utilized by each of the STAs to compute corresponding CSI feedback. A first listed STA within the NDPA frame **402** may transmit CSI Feedback **408** subsequent to a SIFS period after the transmission of the NDP frame **404**, as illustrated in FIG. **4**. In some aspects, the CSI Feedback **408** comprises only a portion of the complete CSI feedback for the first listed STA. For example, when the complete CSI feedback is too large to be transmitted in a data unit such as an MPDU or a PPDU, the portion included in the CSI Feedback **408** may be small enough for transmission in the data unit. In these aspects, the AP may transmit a CSI Poll **412** to request an additional portion of the complete CSI feedback from the first listed STA. The first listed STA may then transmit another portion such as CSI Feedback **414** in response to the CSI Poll **412**. This process of polling an STA may continue until all portions of the complete CSI feedback have been received.

In some aspects, a CSI Poll may be sent by the AP to another STA listed in the NDPA frame to request the other STA to send CSI feedback. For example, if the first listed STA in the NDPA frame **402** divides its complete CSI feedback into the two portions of CSI Feedback **408**, **414**, then the AP may request another STA listed in the NDPA frame **402** to begin transmission of CSI feedback with CSI Poll **416**. In response, the other STA may transmit CSI Feedback **418**, which may be complete CSI feedback or a portion of the complete CSI feedback for the other STA. Any number of STAs may be identified in the NDPA frame **402**, as will be discussed in additional detail below, and the AP may transmit any number of CSI polls and/or receive any number of CSI feedbacks or portions thereof.

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After the NDPA frame **402** is transmitted, the AP may transmit a second NDPA frame **422** to again request CSI feedback. The STAs from which CSI feedback is requested by the NDPA frame **422** may be different or the same as the STAs from which CSI feedback is requested by the NDPA frame **402**. The number of STAs from which CSI feedback is requested in the NDPA frames **402**, **422** may be the same or may vary.

In some aspects, the NDPA frame **422** is transmitted after CSI feedback has been received from all of the STAs identified in the NDPA frame **402**. In some aspects, the NDPA frame **422** is transmitted a certain time period after the NDPA frame **402**, regardless of whether CSI feedback has been received from all of the STAs identified in the NDPA frame **402**. In some aspects, the NDPA frame **422** is transmitted after a polling message such as a CSI poll has been sent to all of the STAs identified in the NDPA frame **402**. In some aspects, the NDPA frame **422** may identify one or more STAs that are not identified in the NDPA frame **402**, or may identify a subset of the STAs that are identified in the NDPA frame **402**. Thus, the AP may request CSI feedback from an STA with the NDPA frame **422** while still receiving CSI feedback from one or more STAs identified in the NDPA frame **402**. In some aspects, the NDPA frame **422** may be transmitted by the AP in response to a certain event, or the transmission of the NDPA frame **422** may be triggered by an action of the AP or another device.

FIG. 5 illustrates an aspect of an NDPA frame, for example the NDPA frame **422**. In some aspects, the NDPA frame **422** may be referred to as a CSI request message, which may be of type control frame. The NDPA frame **422** may comprise one or more of a frame control field **502**, a duration field **504**, an RA broadcast field **506**, a TA field **508**, a CSI sequence field **512**, an STA information field **514**, and a CRC field **516**. The NDPA frame **422** may be transmitted or broadcast by the AP, as described above. The NDPA frame **402** may be formatted or configured similar to the NDPA frame **422**.

In the illustrated aspect, the frame control field **502** comprises 16 bits. Also in the illustrated aspect, the duration field **504** comprises 16 bits and may include a length of the NDPA frame **422**. The CRC field **516** in the illustrated aspect comprises 32 bits and may comprise data for determining a Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC).

In the illustrated aspect, the RA broadcast field **506** comprises 48 bits. The RA broadcast field **506** may comprise a broadcast/multicast address for multiple STAs. For example, the RA broadcast field **506** may include a group address, where a plurality of STAs belong to the group. In such aspect, each STA may identify if it is being addressed based on the group address. In other aspects, the RA broadcast field **506** may instead identify a single STA, for example by indicating a MAC address of an intended STA. In some aspects, the RA broadcast field **506** may instead comprise or be referred to as a DA (destination address) field.

In the illustrated aspect, the TA field **508** comprises 48 bits. The TA field **508** may comprise an address or identifier of a device transmitting the NDPA frame **422**, for example an address of the transmitting AP. In some aspects, the TA field **508** may instead comprise or be referred to as an SA (source address) field.

In the illustrated aspect, the CSI sequence field **512** comprises 8 bits. The CSI sequence field **512** may comprise a sequence number for the NDPA frame **422** or another descriptor uniquely identifying the NDPA frame **422**.

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In the illustrated aspect, the length of the STA information field **514** may vary. The STA information field **514** may include information for each STA from which CSI or other such feedback information is requested.

FIGS. 6A-6C illustrate aspects of an STA information field, for example the STA information field **514**. In the aspect illustrated in FIG. 6A, when the RA broadcast field **506** of the NDPA frame **422** identifies a single STA, the STA information field **514a** will include information **602** for only that identified STA. In another aspect illustrated in FIGS. 6B and 6C, where the RA broadcast field **506** of the NDPA frame **422** comprises a broadcast/multicast address for multiple STAs, for example, information for each STA from which the AP is requesting feedback will be included in the STA information field **514**. In FIG. 6B, the AP is requesting CSI from STAs 1-4, and information **612-618** for each STA is included in the STA information field **514b**. In FIG. 6C, in contrast, the AP is requesting CSI only from STAs 5 and 6, and information **622** and **624** is included in the STA information field **514c**. In some aspects, a broadcast/multicast or group address may be included in the RA broadcast field **506**, but information for only a single STA included in the STA information field **514**. In this way, a broadcast/multicast address may be included in the NDPA frame **422** for ease of processing and/or uniformity, but a single STA addressed.

FIGS. 7A-7C illustrate aspects of STA information included in the STA information field **514**. Any one of the STA information **602-624** illustrated in FIGS. 6A-6C may be formatted as illustrated in any of FIGS. 7A-7C. As an example, STA information **612** is illustrated in FIG. 7.

The STA information **612** may communicate to an STA parameters that the STA may use to report CSI. In some aspects, the CSI returned by the STA is referred to as sounding feedback (SF). In these aspects, the STA information **612** may include information or data for the STA to determine and/or calculate SF based on a sounding frame included in the NDP frame **404** illustrated in FIG. 4, for example. In some aspects, the STA information **612** may be used to determine no to send SF, or to send a form of SF that requires less data.

In the aspect illustrated in FIG. 7A, STA information **612a** may comprise one or more of an AID field **702**, an Nss field **704**, an Ng field **706**, a coefficient field **712**, and a codebook field **714**, a last SF received field **722**, and a last SF stored field **724**. In some aspects, the STA information **612a** further comprises a reserved field **732** that includes bits in addition to those assigned to the fields **702-724** that may be used for any of a variety of purposes. In some aspects, the fields **702-732** are arranged in an order that differs from the order illustrated in FIG. 7A.

In the illustrated aspect, the AID field **702** comprises 11 bits and may include an AID. As described above, an AID may comprise an Association Identifier of an STA. The AID may comprise any data or descriptor that uniquely identifies the STA. For example, a physical address such as a MAC address may be included in the AID. In some aspects, each of the fields **704-724** may include information or data indicating parameters for the STA identified by the AID field **702** to use in calculating, determining, or generating CSI or SF.

In the illustrated aspect, the Nss field **704** comprises at least 3 bits. The Nss field **704** may indicate a number of spatial channels or streams (e.g., Eigen modes) of CSI feedback to be computed at the STA identified by the AID field **702**.

In the illustrated aspect, the Ng field **706** comprises at least 3 bits. In some aspect, the Ng field **706** comprises at least 2 bits. The Ng field **706** may indicate a grouping of tones on which the STA identified by the AID field **702** is to generate CSI feedback. For example, the tones may correspond to sub-carriers in an OFDM system.

In the illustrated aspect, the coefficient field **712** comprises at least 3 bits. In some aspects, the coefficient field **712** comprises one or more bits. The coefficient field **712** may indicate a coefficient size, which may correspond to a quantization used by the STA identified by the AID field **702** for matrix entries of the CSI, as will be described in additional detail below. In some aspects, the coefficient field **712** is omitted. For example, the NDPA **402** may indicate that the CSI is formatted as a form of compressed feedback, in which case a coefficient size may not be included.

In the illustrated aspect, the codebook field **714** comprises at least 3 bits. In some aspects, the codebook field **714** comprises one or more bits. The codebook field **714** may indicate a quantization for angles that the STA identified by the AID field **702** should use for SF.

In the illustrated aspect, the last SF received field **722** comprises at least 1 bit. The last SF received field may indicate whether the AP has received SF from the STA identified by the AID field **702** subsequent to sending a previous NDPA frame. For example, in the aspect discussed with respect to FIG. 4, the NDPA frame **402** was transmitted to several STAs to request channel state information. A second STA identified in the NDPA frame **422** transmitted the CSI feedback **418**. In the NDPA frame **422**, if the AID field **702** in the STA information **612a** identifies the second STA, then last SF received field **722** may indicate whether the AP received the CSI feedback **418**. For example, the last SF received field may be set to a value of 0 if the CSI feedback **418** was not received, and may be set to a value of 1 if the CSI feedback **418** was received. In other aspects, these values may be reversed. In some aspects, the last SF received field **722** is used as an acknowledgement of receipt of the last sounding feedback that the AP polled for.

In some aspects, the last SF received field comprises at least 8 bits and may include a sequence number. In this aspect, the last SF received field indicates the sequence number corresponding to the last CSI feedback transmitted. For example, the NDPA frame **422** illustrated in FIG. 5 includes a sequence number for the NDPA frame **422** or another descriptor uniquely identifying the NDPA frame **422** in the CSI sequence field **512**. If SF is received in response to the NDPA frame **422** from an STA—in some aspects, the SF includes the sequence number or other identifier—a following NDPA frame may include the sequence number or other identifier in a last SF received field of an STA information identifying the STA from which the SF was received.

Channel state information transmitted by an STA may not have been received by an AP for any of a variety of reasons. For example, data conflicts, channel interference, or physical obstacles may all prevent a communication such as CSI feedback from being received, or reduce the likelihood that the CSI feedback is accurately received. In some aspects, even in situations where the AP receives CSI from an STA, the last SF field will be set to indicate that the CSI feedback was not received if the CSI feedback cannot be accurately decoded or processed.

The last SF received field **722** may be used by the STA identified by the AID field **702** for any number of purposes. For example, if the STA transmitted SF in response to the NDPA frame **402**, but the last SF received field **722** indicates

that the SF was not received by the AP, the STA may determine that there was an error in the transmission. In response, the STA may retransmit the previous SF. As another example, if the STA did not transmit SF in response to the NDPA frame **402**, but the last SF received field **722** indicates that SF was received, the STA may determine that the received SF is erroneous and may send a communication to the AP instructing the AP to discard the received SF.

In some aspects, the last SF received field **722** may be used to adjust a rate used to send SF. For example, when the last SF received field **722** indicates that SF was not received even though the STA transmitted the SF, the STA may reduce a PHY rate for sending a subsequent SF. Similarly, when the last SF received field **722** indicates that a previously transmitted SF was successfully received, the STA may increase a PHY rate for sending a subsequent SF. In this way, a rate used to send the SF may be continually adjusted or tuned for increased performance. In some aspects, another parameter or characteristic besides the rate may be adjusted based on whether a previous SF was properly received. For example, a modulation used for sending the SF may be changed if the previous SF was not properly received.

In some aspects, the STA adjusts a rate only after a series of SFs was properly received, or after the series of SFs was improperly received. For example, the STA may increase a rate after receiving a certain number of NDPA frames having a last SF received field that indicates that SF was properly received. In some aspects, if a series of SFs was not properly received, for example as indicated by CSI last received fields in a series of NDPA frames, the STA may transmit a communication to the AP to indicate that the AP should refrain from sending any additional requests for CSI. In this way, network resources consumed by transmitting the NDPA to the STA may be conserved when the AP does not appear to be properly receiving any CSI from the STA.

In some aspects, the rate used by the STA to send the sounding feedback is determined from a rate of a polling message. For example, the rate used to send the CSI poll **416** in the aspect illustrated in FIG. 4 may be used to send the CSI feedback **418**. As another example, the rate used to send the CSI poll **416** may be adjusted up or down based on whether a previous SF was received, as indicated by the last SF received field, for example.

Returning to the description of the STA information **612a** illustrated in FIG. 7A, the last SF stored field **724** comprises at least 1 bit. The last SF stored field **724** may indicate whether the AP has stored the last SF received from the STA identified by the AID field **702**. Thus, in some aspects, the last SF stored field **724** may indicate whether the AP has stored SF received from the STA subsequent to sending a previous NDPA frame. For example, in the aspect discussed with respect to FIG. 4, the NDPA frame **402** was transmitted to several STAs to request channel state information. A second STA identified in the NDPA frame **422** transmitted the CSI feedback **418**. In the NDPA frame **422**, if the AID field **702** in the STA information **612a** identifies the second STA, then last SF stored field **724** may indicate whether the AP stored the CSI feedback **418**. For example, the last SF stored field may be set to a value of 0 if the CSI feedback **418** was not stored, and may be set to a value of 1 if the CSI feedback **418** was stored. In other aspects, these values may be reversed.

In some aspects, the last SF stored field comprises at least 8 bits and may include a sequence number. In this aspect, the last SF stored field indicates the sequence number corresponding to the last CSI feedback transmitted. For example, the NDPA frame **422** illustrated in FIG. 5 includes a

sequence number for the NDPA frame **422** or another descriptor uniquely identifying the NDPA frame **422** in the CSI sequence field **512**. If SF received from an STA has been stored subsequent to the NDPA frame **422**—in some aspects, the SF includes the sequence number or other identifier—a

following NDPA frame may include the sequence number or other identifier in a last SF stored field of an STA information identifying the STA from which the SF was received. Channel state information transmitted by an STA may not have been stored by an AP for any of a variety of reasons. For example, when the CSI hasn't been received or is received improperly, the CSI can't be stored by the AP. In some aspects, however, even properly received CSI may not be stored. For example, an AP may not have enough memory to store the CSI. As another example, the AP may determine not to store the CSI when a specific time period has elapsed since requesting the CSI, or when a given time period has elapsed since the CSI was determined by the STA. In this way, the CSI may have "timed out" and may not be stored. In some aspects, the AP may delete stored CSI that has "timed out." When transmitting the next NDPA, the AP may indicate in the last SF stored field for the STA that transmitted the deleted CSI that the CSI has not been stored.

The last SF stored field **724** may be used by the STA identified by the AID field **702** for any number of purposes. For example, if the STA transmitted SF in response to the NDPA frame **402**, but the last SF stored field **724** indicates that the SF was not stored by the AP, the STA may retransmit the previous SF.

As another example, if the last SF stored field **724** indicates that the previous SF was stored and the STA determines that the channel for which CSI is requested has changed less than a threshold amount, or determines that the CSI has changed less than a threshold amount, the STA may determine that the stored CSI and a current CSI are substantially the same and may not to send any CSI in response to the NDPA frame **422**. In this circumstance, the STA may instead send a communication to the AP indicating that no CSI will be transmitted, for example as described below. Omitting the CSI may conserve network resources and increase the speed and/or reliability of communications within the network.

In some aspects where the last SF stored field **724** indicates that the previous SF was stored, the STA may transmit information representing a difference between the stored SF and current SF. In some aspects, complete CSI feedback may comprise a matrix or data indicative thereof. In some aspects, the matrix comprises a plurality of Eigen modes, singular vectors, or singular values. As described above, the STA may determine a spatial filter matrix based on a downlink channel response matrix $H_{dn,m}$ for that STA. Feedback information (e.g., the downlink eigenvectors, eigenvalues, SNR estimates, and so on) may be thereby transmitted, for example to the AP. Thus, channel state information and/or SF may be represented as a matrix. In some aspects, a difference between a previous SF and a current SF may also be represented by a matrix. The difference matrix, however, may require fewer bytes to represent. Thus, sending a difference CSI instead of a complete CSI may also conserve network resources.

In some aspects, when the last SF received field **722** indicates that the last SF that the AP polled has not been received, the last SF stored field **724** will always indicate that the AP has not stored the last SF polled for. For example, when the last SF received field **722** and the last SF stored field **724** are implemented as bits as described above, the last SF stored field **724** will always have a value of 0 when the

last SF received field **722** has a value of 0. In other aspects, when the SF received field **722** indicates that the last SF that the AP polled has not been received, the last SF stored field **724** may be used to indicate that a previously stored SF is still being stored by the AP. For example, when the last SF received field **722** and the last SF stored field **724** are implemented as bits as described above and the last SF received field **722** has a value of 0, the last SF stored field **724** may be set to 1 to indicate that a previously stored SF is still being stored and may be switched to 0 to indicate that a previously stored SF has been deleted or that a new complete SF is requested.

Some aspects use indicators other than the fields **704-724** to indicate parameters to an STA that the STA may use to report CSI. In one aspect, a bit or series of bits in the STA information **612a** may be used by the STA to lookup the relevant parameters. The STA may have parameters stored or may retrieve parameters corresponding to one or more of the Nss field **704**, Ng field **706**, coefficient field **712**, and codebook field **714** based on such bits in the STA information **612a**.

FIG. 7B illustrates another aspect **612b** of the STA information **612**. The STA information **612b** is illustrated as including the fields **702-724** and **732** included in the STA information **612a**, as well as an MU/SU field **726**. In the illustrated aspect, the MU/SU field **726** comprises at least 1 bit. This field may indicate whether the STA identified by the AID field **702** is requested to provide single user (SU) or multi-user (MU) feedback. In this way, the AP may separately notify each STA identified in the NDPA frame **422** whether SU or MU feedback is requested from that respective STA.

In some aspects, one or more of the fields **702-732** are omitted from the STA information **612**. Further, additional fields may be included in the STA information **612**. In some aspects, some of the bits in the STA information **612** are reserved for other or future uses. For example, STA information **612c** illustrated in FIG. 7C shows an aspect including the AID field **702**, a field **752** having one or more bits that have been reserved for future use, and a previous SF stored field **754**. The previous SF stored field may indicate when the AP has stored the last SF it had polled from the STA identified in the AID field **702**. In some aspects, the previous SF stored field **754** may be configured similar to and/or used similar to the last SF stored field **724**.

In comparison to the aspect illustrated in FIG. 7B, another aspect for notifying STAs whether MU or SU feedback is requested is illustrated in FIG. 8. In the aspect illustrated in FIG. 8, an MU/SU field **522** is included in an NDPA frame **422a**. The NDPA frame **422a** may be formatted or configured similar to the NDPA frame **422**, with the exception that the MU/SU field **522** is added to the NDPA frame **422a** such that the MU/SU field **522** is separate from the STA information field **514**. The MU/SU field **522** may be used as a "global" indicator to signify whether SU or MU feedback is requested from all of the STAs identified in the STA information field **514**.

In some aspects, the AP may require or request that the CSI be transmitted using a particular modulation coding scheme (MCS). FIGS. 9A and 9B illustrate aspects of a frame including information for determining the MCS. In the aspect illustrated in FIG. 9A, frame **900a** comprises an NDPA frame that has been "wrapped" in a control wrapper. Thus, the frame **900a** may be used to request CSI from an STA, for example in addition to or in place of the NDPA frame **422**.

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In the illustrated aspect, the frame **900a** includes the frame control field **502**, duration field **504**, RA broadcast field **506**, SA field **508**, CSI sequence field **512**, STA information field **514**, and CRC field **516** that are included in the NDPA **422**. In addition, the frame **900a** includes a carried frame control field **902** and an HT-control field **904**. In the illustrated aspect, the carried frame control field **902** comprises at least 2 bits, and the HT-control field **904** comprises at least 4 bits.

The HT-control field **904** may comprise information indicating an MCS for the STAs identified in the STA information field **514** to use when transmitting SF. In some aspects, the HT-control field **604** comprises a link adaption control field including information which the STAs may use to determine the MCS. In some aspects, the link adaption control field includes a TRQ (Training Request) field, an MAI (MCS Request or Antenna Selection Indication) field, an MFSI (MCS Feedback (MFB) Sequence Identifier), and an MFB/ASELC (MCS Feedback and Antenna Selection Command/Data) field. In some aspects, the frame **900a** includes a very high throughput (VHT) control field instead of the high throughput (HT) control field **904**. The VHT control field may include information as discussed above with respect to the HT control field **904**. In some aspects, the HT-control field **904** or another portion of the frame **900a** includes information for an STA to determine a rate to transmit CSI.

In the aspect illustrated in FIG. 9B, frame **900b** is illustrated as comprising the fields **502-516**, **902**, and **904** illustrated with respect to the frame **900a**, as well as an additional field. The additional field may comprise a service set identifier that identifies a network, for example a WLAN. In the illustrated aspect, for example, BSSID field **912** comprises a basic service set (BSS) identifier and identifies a BSS. In some aspects, the BSSID field **912** may be set to a MAC address of an AP which transmitted the frame **900b**.

The fields **502-516**, **902**, and **904** illustrated in FIG. 9B may be configured as described above with respect to FIG. 9A. In some aspects, one or more of these fields comprise additional or fewer bits than previously described. In some aspects, the BSSID field **912** comprises anywhere from 1-32 octets. In one aspect, the BSSID field **912** comprises 6 octets. In some aspects, the fields **502-516** and **902-912** are arranged in an order that differs from the order illustrated in FIG. 9A and/or FIG. 9B.

FIG. 10 illustrates another aspect of a frame **1000** including information for determining MCS. In the aspect illustrated in FIG. 10, the frame **1000** comprises a CSI poll that has been "wrapped" in a control wrapper. Thus, the frame **1000** may be used to request at least a portion of CSI from an STA, for example in addition to or in place of the CSI poll **412**.

In the illustrated aspect, the frame **1000** may comprise at least one of: a frame control field **1002**, a duration field **1004**, a destination address (DA) field **1006**, a source address (SA) field **1008**, a sequence field **1012**, a remaining segments field **1014**, and a Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC) field **1016**.

In the illustrated aspect, the frame control field **1002** comprises 16 bits. Also in the illustrated aspect, the duration field **1004** comprises 16 bits and may include a length of the frame **1000**. The CRC field **1016** in the illustrated aspect comprises 32 bits.

In the illustrated aspect, the DA field **1006** comprises 48 bits. The DA field **1006** may indicate an address of the STA that the frame **1000** is being transmitted to, for example as discussed above.

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In the illustrated aspect, the SA field **1008** comprises 48 bits. The SA field **1008** may indicate an address of the AP that is transmitting the frame **1000**, for example as discussed above.

In the illustrated aspect, the sequence field **1012** comprises 8 bits. The sequence field **1012** may comprise information indicative of the sequence number common to the CSI feedback for which the AP is requesting an additional segment. In some aspects, the sequence number indicated by the sequence field **1012** is the same as or is copied from the sequence number for the immediately preceding NDPA frame. Thus, when the frame **1000** is used in place of the CSI poll **412** in FIG. 4, the sequence field **1012** may have the same value as a CSI sequence field in the NDPA **402**, for example.

In the illustrated aspect, the remaining segments field **1014** comprises 8 bits. The remaining segments field **1014** indicates the number of segments of CSI feedback that the AP expects to receive from the STA addressed by the DA field **1006**. In some aspects, information included with CSI feedback sent by the STA includes a number of remaining segments left to be transmitted, as will be discussed below. In these aspects, information in the remaining segments field **1014** may be copied from the remaining segments field of the immediately preceding CSI information. For example, when the AP receives the portion of CSI feedback **408** in FIG. 4, the frame **1000** may be sent to the STA that transmitted the portion of CSI feedback **408** with the remaining segments field **1014** having a value of 1. In response, the STA may transmit the one remaining portion of CSI feedback **414**.

The frame **1000** may further comprise the carried frame control field **902** and the HT-control field **904** described above with respect to FIG. 9A. As discussed above, the HT-control field **904** may comprise information indicating an MCS or a rate such as a physical layer rate. The STA identified in the DA field **1006** may use the information in the HT-control field **904** to determine the MCS or rate.

FIG. 11 illustrates an aspect of a CSI report message for communicating CSI feedback. For example, the CSI report message may be used to implement the CSI feedback **408** illustrated in FIG. 4. The CSI feedback **408** may be determined by a STA in response to a received NDPA frame, for example the NDPA frame **402** or the NDPA frame **422** described above. As described in additional detail below, the elements of the CSI feedback **408** may be generated based on information in the NDPA frame. The CSI report message may comprise a frame for communicating the CSI feedback.

In one aspect, the CSI feedback **408** may be generated by one of the STAs identified in the NDPA frame **402** and autonomously transmitted a SIFS period after the NDP frame **404**. For example, the first STA identified in an STA information field may generate the CSI feedback **408** and autonomously transmit the CSI feedback **408** to the AP a SIFS period after receiving the NDP frame **404**. Other STAs identified in the STA information field may await a polling message before transmitting respective CSI feedback, as discussed above.

The CSI feedback **408** may comprise at least one of: a frame control field **1102**, a duration field **1104**, a destination address (DA) field **1106**, a source address (SA) field **1108**, a CSI feedback control field **1110**, a CSI feedback field **1112** with a computed CSI, or a Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC) field **1114**. The CSI feedback **408** may be of type Action No Acknowledgement (ACK) message that may not require an ACK response. In the illustrated aspect, the CSI feedback **408** may comprise a control frame.

In some aspects, instead of the field described above, the CSI feedback **408** may instead comprise a category field, an action field, a sounding sequence field, the CSI feedback control field **1110**, and/or a sounding report. In such aspects, the CSI feedback **408** may comprise an action frame. In some aspects, the CSI feedback field **1112** and the sounding report contain similar information.

In some aspects, channel state information and/or SF may be represented as a matrix, as discussed above, and the sounding report and/or the CSI feedback field **1112** may comprise the matrix or data indicative thereof. As also discussed above, the matrix comprises a plurality of Eigen modes, singular vectors, or singular values in some aspects.

There are certain situations in which the STA may determine not to send feedback. For example, SF may not be transmitted if a prior corresponding NDPA/NDP frame was not received, or if the current SF is substantially similar to a previously transmitted SF. As another example, SF may not be transmitted if the transmission would exceed a PPDU or transmit opportunity (TXOP) limitation. In some aspects, the CSI feedback field **1112** is omitted in such situations. Thus, the absence of the CSI feedback field **1112** may indicate that no SF is being transmitted in some aspects. For example, if a device such as an AP receives the CSI feedback **408**, the device may determine a length of the CSI feedback **408**. The length may be used to determine whether the CSI feedback field **1112** is included, and it may be determined that no SF will be transmitted if the CSI feedback is omitted. In some aspects, an indicator in the CSI feedback control field **1110** may signify a reason why the SF is not being transmitted.

FIGS. **12A-12E** illustrate an aspect of a control field for sounding feedback, for example the CSI feedback control field **1110**. In some aspects, the CSI feedback control field **1110** comprises a very high throughput (VHT) MIMO control field.

In an aspect illustrated in FIG. **12A**, CSI feedback control field **1110a** may comprise one or more of an Nc sub-field **1202**, an Nr sub-field **1204**, a bandwidth sub-field **1206**, an Ng sub-field **1212**, a codebook sub-field **1214**, a coefficient sub-field **1216**, a remaining segments sub-field **1222**, a sequence sub-field **1224**, an MU/SU sub-field **1232**, a CSI null sub-field **1234**, an NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236**, and a difference CSI sub-field **1238**. In some aspects, the CSI feedback control field **1110a** further comprises a reserved sub-field **1242** that includes bits in addition to those assigned to the sub-fields **1202-1238** that may be used for any of a variety of purposes. In some aspects, the sub-fields **1202-1242** are arranged in an order that differs from the order illustrated in FIG. **12**.

In the illustrated aspect, the Nc sub-field **1202** comprises at least 3 bits. The Nc sub-field **1202** may indicate a number of columns in the matrix discussed above, which represents the CSI for the STA. Using 3 bits provides for information regarding at least 5 antennas. In some aspects, the 3 bits provide information for 8 antennas.

In the illustrated aspect, the Nr sub-field **1204** comprises at least 3 bits. The Nr sub-field **1204** may indicate a number of rows in the matrix discussed above. Using 3 bits provides for information regarding at least 5 antennas. In some aspects, the 3 bits provide information for 8 antennas.

In some aspects, information from the Nss sub-field **704** in the STA information **612** is used to determine Nc and Nr. In one aspect, the STA sends SF, for example in the sounding report or the CSI feedback field **1112**, using exactly the same number of spatial streams (e.g. Eigen modes) as indicated by the Nss field **704**. This may be reflected in Nc and Nr. Using

exactly the same number of spatial streams may reduce SF overhead because the SF size will be no larger than the AP has determined is required. In this way, resources will not be wasted by sending more feedback than requested by the AP.

In other aspects, a greater or fewer number of spatial streams may be used by the STA than are requested by the AP.

In the aspect illustrated in FIG. **12A**, the bandwidth sub-field **1206** comprises at least 2 bits. The bandwidth sub-field **1206** may indicate a bandwidth of the CSI feedback. For example, the 2 bits may be used to represent four different values (i.e. 0, 1, 2, and 3), each of which may correspond to one of the following frequencies: 20 MHz, 40 MHz, 80 MHz, and 160 MHz.

In the aspect illustrated in FIG. **12A**, the Ng sub-field **1212** comprises at least 3 bits. The Ng sub-field **1212** may indicate a grouping of tones on which the STA has generated CSI feedback. Using these three bits, 8 different tone group options may be identified. For example, options including band edge/DC tones may be identified. In some aspects, the Ng sub-field **1212** comprises at least 2 bits.

In some aspects, CSI feedback is generated for each tone being used by the STA. As an example, there may be up to 468 tones when a bandwidth of the CSI feedback is 160 MHz. Some of the tones, however, may be grouped together such that information is reported on all of the tones in the group concurrently. The Ng sub-field **1212** may indicate how the tones have been grouped and how many tones are in the group. For example, 3-4 tones may be grouped together and the information for these tones averaged to generate the CSI feedback.

In one aspect, the STA sends CSI feedback with tone groups that are no larger than the tone groups indicated by the Ng field **706** in the STA information **612**. In some aspects, however, the STA may use a smaller value of Ng than indicated by the Ng field **706**. Using groups that are no larger than indicated by the Ng field **706** will decrease the likelihood of MU gains being diminished. This decrease may be due to the AP having decided the Ng indicated in the Ng field **706** based on an MU/SU transmission to be used. In other aspects, the STA may use tone groups that are larger than the tone groups indicated by the Ng field **706**.

In the aspect illustrated in FIG. **12A**, the codebook sub-field **1214** comprises at least 3 bits. The codebook sub-field **1214** may include information that the AP may use to index into a table indicating how CSI values are quantized. In some aspects, the STA quantizes the values using at least as many bits as indicated by the codebook field **714** of the STA information **612**. Using at least as many bits as indicated by the codebook field **714** will decrease the likelihood of MU gains being diminished. This decrease may be due to the AP having decided a requested quantization based on whether the AP intends to use the SF in an MU or SU protocol. In other aspects, the STA may use fewer bits than indicated by the codebook field **714**. In some aspects, the codebook sub-field **1214** comprises one or more bits.

In the illustrated aspect, the coefficient sub-field **1216** comprises at least 3 bits. The coefficient sub-field **914 1216** may indicate a coefficient size, which may correspond to a quantization used by the STA for entries in the matrix described above. In some aspects, the coefficient sub-field **1216** comprises one or more bits. In some aspects, the coefficient sub-field **1216** is omitted. For example, the SF may be formatted as a compressed feedback, in which case a coefficient size may not be included.

In some aspects, the STA quantizes entries of the matrix using at least as many bits as indicated by the coefficient

field **712** of the STA information **612**. Using at least as many bits as indicated by the coefficient field **712** will decrease the likelihood of MU gains being diminished. This decrease may be due to the AP having decided a requested quantization based on whether the AP intends to use the SF for MU or SU. In other aspects, the STA may use fewer bits than indicated by the coefficient field **712**.

In the illustrated aspect, the remaining segments sub-field **1222** may comprise at least 5 bits. The remaining segments sub-field **1222** may indicate a number of segments that are yet to be transmitted regarding the CSI feedback for the STA, as discussed above.

For example, a number of bytes for CSI feedback may be large. For example, in the case of 8x3 80 MHz uncompressed bandwidth, the number of bytes for the CSI feedback may be approximately equal to 12K. A large CSI feedback may not be able to fit into one MAC Protocol Data Unit (MPDU) due to MPDU size limitations. A maximum size of MPDU of approximately 8K may be obtained from Aggregated MPDU (A-MPDU) delimiter indication. Furthermore, an MPDU size capability may be even less since it is negotiated.

The CSI feedback may be segmented into multiple MPDUs. For example, segments of the CSI feedback may be transmitted within multiple MPDUs of an A-MPDU. Thus, the remaining segments sub-field **1222** may indicate a number of remaining segments of the CSI feedback or SF that remains to be transmitted after the current MPDU.

In the aspect illustrated in FIG. **12A**, the sequence sub-field **1224** may comprise at most 8 bits. The sequence sub-field **924** may comprise information indicative of a sequence number that is common among all segments of a CSI feedback transmitted by the STA. In some aspects, the sequence number indicated by the sequence field **1224** is the same as or is copied from the sequence number from a preceding NDPA frame, for example from a CSI sequence field.

In the illustrated aspect, the CSI feedback control field **1110a** includes the MU/SU sub-field **1232** to indicate if the associated CSI feedback was computed for MU or SU. In some aspects, the CSI feedback is determined pursuant to the MU/SU field in an NDPA frame, for example as illustrated in FIG. **7B** or **8**. In other aspects, the STA determines whether to compute the CSI for SU or MU. In some aspects, feedback calculated for SU may be determined with less resolution. Thus, determining SU feedback instead of MU feedback may reduce processing complexity at the STA or may reduce the amount of network resources used to send the feedback. In the illustrated aspect, the MU/SU field comprises at least 1 bit.

In the illustrated aspect, the CSI null sub-field **1234** comprises at least 1 bit. The CSI null sub-field **1234** may be used to indicate whether CSI will be transmitted by the STA. For example, the CSI null sub-field **1234** may be set to a value of 0 if no CSI will be transmitted, and may be set to a value of 1 if CSI will be transmitted. In other aspects, these values may be reversed. In some aspects, the CSI null sub-field **1234** may be omitted, and the length of the CSI feedback **408** is used to determine whether CSI is being transmitted. In such aspects, if it is determined that the CSI is not being transmitted, the CSI feedback control field **1110a** may include an indicator that signifies whether the CSI is not being transmitted because a transmission limitation would be exceeded. For example, the CSI feedback control field **1110a** may comprise a one bit field indicating whether transmission of the CSI would exceed a PPDU or

TXOP limitation. Exceeding the PPDU or TXOP limitation may occur if a frame containing the CSI would be too long to transmit, for example.

In the illustrated aspect, the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** comprises at least 1 bit. When the CSI null sub-field **1234** indicates that CSI will not be transmitted, the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** may be used to indicate a condition that caused the CSI not to be transmitted. In one aspect, a value of 0 in the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** indicates that a corresponding NDPA frame was not received, while a value of 1 in the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** indicates that a corresponding NDP frame was not received.

In another aspect, a single value of the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** is used to indicate that either an NDPA or an NDP corresponding to an identifier in the sequence field **1224** was not received. For example, a value of 0 may be used to indicate this condition. The other value, which in this example is 1, may be used to indicate that no CSI is being transmitted because the current CSI is within a threshold of a previously transmitted CSI. For example, when a last SF stored field of the NDPA indicates that the last SF transmitted by the STA has been stored, the STA may refrain from sending the current SF if the current SF is substantially similar to the stored SF. In this situation, the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** may be set to a value to indicate that the channel has not changed enough to warrant the transmission of additional SF.

In the illustrated aspect, the difference CSI sub-field **1238** comprises at least 1 bit. When the CSI null sub-field **1234** indicates that CSI is being transmitted, the difference CSI sub-field may be used to indicate whether complete CSI is being transmitted or whether information representative of a difference is being transmitted. For example, a value of 0 in the difference CSI sub-field **1238** may indicate that complete CSI information is being transmitted. A value of 1 in the difference CSI sub-field **1238**, however, may indicate that information representative of a difference between a previously transmitted CSI and the current CSI is being transmitted. For example, when a last SF stored field of the an NDPA indicates that the last SF of the STA has been stored at an AP, the STA may calculate and transmit a difference between the current SF and the stored SF, and indicate these actions to the AP using the difference CSI sub-field **1238**. As discussed above, the difference may in some aspects be represented using fewer bits, and may thus reduce overhead.

An AP receiving the CSI feedback control field **1110a** may use information therein to determine a CSI. In some aspects, such as the aspects where CSI is not transmitted by the STA as indicated by the CSI null sub-field **1234**, the AP may use previously received or stored CSI. In other aspects, the CSI may receive complete CSI from the AP, or may receive data representative of a difference and may thereafter calculate current CSI from the difference and a previously stored CSI, for example as indicated by the difference CSI sub-field **1238**.

In some aspects, the AP may adjust parameters for sending information to the STA based on information in the CSI feedback control field **1110a**. For example, when the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** indicates that a previously transmitted NDPA or NDP was not received, the AP may transmit the NDPA or NP again, or may reduce a rate such as a PHY rate used to send future NDPAs and/or NDPs. If the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** indicates that a previously transmitted NDPA and NDP was received, the AP may increase the rate or may adjust another parameter like a modulation scheme. Further, if the CSI feedback control

field **1110a** indicates that a channel has not changed or has changed very little, for example using the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** and/or the difference CSI sub-field **1238**, the AP may decrease the frequency at which it requests CSI from the STA. Similarly, if the AP receives complete CSI every time or the channel appears to be rapidly changing, the AP may increase the frequency at which it requests CSI from the STA.

In some aspects, one or more of the fields **1202-1242** are omitted from the CSI feedback control field **1110**. Further, additional fields may be included in the CSI feedback control field **1110**. In some aspects, some of the bits in the STA information **612** are reserved for other or future uses. For example, CSI feedback control field **1110b** illustrated in FIG. **12B** shows an aspect including the Nc sub-field **1202**, Nr sub-field **1204**, bandwidth sub-field **1206**, remaining segments sub-field **1222**, sequence number sub-field **1224**, and optionally the MU/SU sub-field **1232**. In addition, the CSI feedback control field **1110b** includes an SF null sub-field **1252** and a use previous SF sub-field **1254**.

In the illustrated aspect, the SF null sub-field **1252** comprises at least 1 bit. The SF null sub-field **1252** may indicate whether SF is being transmitted by the STA. In some aspects, the SF null sub-field is configured similar to and/or used similar to the CSI null sub-field **1234**.

In the illustrated aspect, the use previous SF sub-field **1254** comprises at least 1 bit. The use previous SF sub-field **1254** may indicate whether SF previously stored at the AP should be used. For example, when a previous SF stored field in an NDPA indicates that the previously transmitted SF has been stored at the AP, the use previous SF sub-field **1254** may be used to indicate that the stored SF should be used as the current SF, or to indicate that the stored SF should be combined with a difference data that is being transmitted by the STA. In some aspects, if the SF null sub-field **1252** and the use previous SF sub-field **1254** indicate that no SF is being transmitted, the AP may infer that a previous NDPA frame and/or NDP frame was not received. Thus, the SF null sub-field **1252** may indicate that no CSI is being transmitted, while the use previous SF sub-field **1254** indicates a condition that caused the CSI not to be transmitted, such as channel information being missing or a difference between current SF and previous SF being negligible. A table summarizing one aspect of possible values of the SF null sub-field **1252** and the use previous SF sub-field **1254** is included below. The table shows how the values correspond to a potential transmission of CSI.

SF Null	Use Prev SF	Action
0	0	Regular SF being transmitted
1	0	SF Null (No SF available)
0	1	Difference SF being transmitted
1	1	Use Prev SF (No SF in this frame)

CSI feedback control field **1110c** illustrated in FIG. **12C** shows an aspect including the Nc sub-field **1202**, Nr sub-field **1204**, bandwidth sub-field **1206**, remaining segments sub-field **1222**, Ng sub-field **1212**, codebook sub-field **1214**, coefficient sub-field **1216**, remaining segments sub-field **1222**, sequence number sub-field **1224**, and optionally the MU/SU sub-field **1232** and/or the reserved sub-field **1242**. Each of these sub-fields may be configured as described with respect to FIG. **12A**.

In contrast to the CSI feedback control field **1110a** illustrated in FIG. **12A**, however, the CSI feedback control field

1110c omits the CSI null sub-field **1234** and includes instead a first segment sub-field **1262**. In the illustrated aspect, the first segment sub-field **1262** comprises at least 1 bit. The first segment sub-field **1262** may be used to indicate whether CSI feedback that is being transmitted is the first segment of that CSI. If an AP receives a CSI segment of a new CSI, but the first segment sub-field **1262** does not indicate that the received segment is the first segment of the new CSI, then the AP may determine that it missed at least one previously transmitted segment of the new CSI. The CSI may be identified as new using the sequence number sub-field **1224** and/or using the remaining segments sub-field **1222**. For example, if the remaining segments sub-field **1222** associated with a previous CSI segment indicated that the segment was the last segment, any CSI segments that are received in the future may be determined to be associated with new CSI.

Further, the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236** and the difference CSI sub-field **1238** illustrated in FIG. **12A** have been replaced with a single CSI null and difference sub-field **1264** in the CSI feedback control field **1110c**. In the illustrated aspect, the CSI null and difference sub-field **1264** comprises at least 2 bits. Implementing the CSI null and difference sub-field **1264** in this way allows the CSI feedback control field **1110c** to be implemented using the same number of bits as the CSI feedback control field **1110a**. The CSI null and difference sub-field **1264** may indicate whether regular SF is being transmitted, whether a difference between current SF and previous SF is negligible, and/or whether SF is not available. In one aspect, SF may not be available if a corresponding NDP or NDPA frame was not received. Those of skill in the art will appreciate that the CSI null and difference sub-field **1264** may be used to indicate the same or similar information as indicated by one or more of the CSI null sub-field **1234**, NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236**, difference CSI sub-field **1238**, SF null sub-field **1252**, and use previous SF sub-field **1254**. One aspect of possible values of the CSI null and difference sub-field **1264** is summarized in the table below. The table illustrates how the values correspond to a potential transmission of CSI.

CSI null and difference sub-field	Action
0 0	Regular feedback
0 1	SF not available: may be set if NDPA or NDP frame was not received
1 0	Zero difference indicates that NDPA or NDP frame was received, but no CSI needs to be sent
1 1	Reserved, or indicates that the CSI feedback is a difference CSI

Those of skill in the art that other values or combinations of values may correspond to the listed actions. For example, the actions associated with "0 1" and "1 1" may be transposed in the table above.

In the table above, values of "1 1" may be used to indicate that CSI feedback being transmitted is a difference CSI. In other aspects, the values of "1 1" may be reserved. In some aspects, the values of "1 1" may be used to indicate that CSI is not being included because transmission of the CSI feedback would exceed a transmission limitation, such as a PPDU or a TXOP limitation. For example, if a length of CSI feedback, such as the CSI Feedback **408**, indicates that no SF is being transmitted, the values of "1 1" may indicate that the condition that caused the non-transmission is a PPDU or TXOP limitation.

In some aspects, if the length of the CSI Feedback **408** indicates that no SF is being transmitted, one or more of the indicators or sub-fields discussed above may be used to indicate a condition that caused the SF not to be transmitted. For example, the NDPA/NDP not received sub-field **1236**, difference CSI sub-field **1238**, use previous SF sub-field **1254**, and/or the CSI null and difference sub-field **1264** may signify what the condition is. In other aspects, a new field may be defined to indicate the condition. In still other aspects, one or more bits that would be used for another purpose when CSI is being transmitted can be used to provide this indication. For example, one or more of the bits in the remaining segments field **1222** may be used to indicate the condition if a length of the CSI Feedback **408** indicates that SF is not being transmitted.

CSI feedback control field **1110d** illustrated in FIG. **12D** shows an aspect including the Nc sub-field **1202**, Nr sub-field **1204**, bandwidth sub-field **1206**, Ng sub-field **1212**, codebook sub-field **1214**, sequence number sub-field **1224**, and the MU/SU sub-field **1232**. In the illustrated aspect, however, the bandwidth sub-field **1206** is illustrated as a channel width sub-field. Further, the Ng sub-field **1212** is illustrated as a grouping sub-field. Additionally, the MU/SU sub-field **1232** is illustrated as a feedback type sub-field, and the sequence number sub-field **1224** is illustrated as a sounding sequence sub-field. Each of these sub-fields may be configured as described with respect to FIG. **12A**.

The CSI feedback control field **1110d** further includes the reserved sub-field **1242**. In the aspect illustrated in FIG. **12D**, the reserved sub-field **1242** may be used to indicate whether CSI will be transmitted. Thus, the reserved sub-field **1242** may indicate that the frame of CSI feedback **408** is a null feedback frame, for example omitting information from the CSI feedback field **1112** or wholly omitting the CSI feedback field **1112**. The reserved sub-field **1242** may therefore be used in some aspects to indicate information similar to the CSI null sub-field **1234** discussed above.

In the aspect illustrated in FIG. **12D**, the reserved sub-field **1242** may instead or additionally be used to indicate whether CSI feedback that is being transmitted is the first segment of that CSI. The reserved sub-field **1242** may therefore be used in some aspects to indicate information similar to the first segment sub-field **1262** discussed above.

In the aspect illustrated in FIG. **12D**, the reserved sub-field **1242** may instead or additionally be used to indicate a number of remaining segments of the CSI feedback or SF that remains to be transmitted after the current MPDU. The reserved sub-field **1242** may therefore be used in some aspects to indicate information similar to the remaining segments sub-field **1222** discussed above. Thus, the reserved sub-field **1242** may indicate which one of a plurality of feedback segments is first and how many segments of the feedback are missing. Indicating first and remaining segments may alert a receiver, such as an AP, of how many segments to expect and whether the segments have all been received.

In the aspect shown in FIG. **12D**, the reserved sub-field **1242** is illustrated as comprising four bits. In one aspect, one of the four bits may be used to indicate whether a segment of feedback being transmitted is a first segment. For example, a bit value of "1" may be used to indicate that the segment is a first segment, and a bit value of "0" may indicate that the segment is not a first segment. In some aspects, B15 is used as the one bit.

In such aspects, one or more of the remaining bits in the reserved sub-field **1242** may be used to indicate a number of segments remaining to be transmitted. For example, if bit

B15 is used to indicate whether the segment being transmitted is a first segment, bits B12-B14 may be used to indicate the number of remaining segments. A value of "111" may indicate that seven segments are remaining, a value of "110" may indicate that six segments are remaining, and so on. If a single segment is being transmitted, the first segment bit may be set to "1" and the remaining segments bits all set to "0." If B12-B14 indicate the number of remaining segments and B15 indicates whether the segment is a first segment, the reserved sub-field **1242** may therefore have a value of "0001" to indicate that a single segment of feedback is being transmitted.

In some aspects, feedback may be split into no more than eight segments. In these aspects, there can be at most seven segments remaining. Seven segments may be remaining, however, only if the segment being transmitted is the first segment. Thus, there would be no circumstance in which a segment that is not the first segment would indicate that seven segments are remaining. In such aspects, the first segment bit may be set to "0" and the remaining segments bits all set to "1" to indicate that CSI is not being transmitted. If B12-B14 indicate the number of remaining segments and B15 indicates whether the segment is a first segment, the reserved sub-field **1242** may therefore have a value of "1110" to indicate that a null feedback frame is being transmitted. Thus, an indication that a first segment is not being transmitted in combination with an indication that the maximum number of remaining segments have yet to be transmitted may alert a receiver, such as an AP, that no CSI is being transmitted.

In some aspects, if the reserved sub-field **1242** indicates that no CSI is being transmitted, all of the bits preceding the reserved sub-field **1242** may be used as reserved bits. Thus, if a null feedback frame is transmitted, bits B0-B11 may be reserved. In some aspects, one or more of these bits may be used to indicate a condition that caused the CSI not to be transmitted.

For example, bits B10-B11 may be used to a reason that feedback is missing. The reason may relate to the reception of sounding information, a transmission limitation, or calculated CSI, among other reasons. In some aspects, B10-B11 are set to a value of "00" if sounding information is missing, for example if an NDPA or NDP frame was not received or was received incorrectly. In some aspects, B10-B11 are set to a value of "01" if feedback cannot be sent due to a TXOP limitation. In some aspects, B10-B11 are set to a value of "10" if feedback cannot be sent due to a PPDU limitation. In some aspects, B10-B11 are set to a value of "11" if previously transmitted channel state information is substantially similar to current channel state information. In some aspects, the value of "11" is reserved for B10-B11.

In the aspect illustrated in FIG. **12D**, the coefficient size sub-field is omitted. Further, the MU/SU sub-field **1232** is disposed before any remaining segments, first segment, and null feedback information or indicators. Additionally, the sequence number sub-field **1224** is disposed after such information or indicators, and therefore after the reserved field **1242**.

FIG. **12E** illustrates an aspect of CSI feedback control field **1110e** showing the reserved sub-field **1242** being split into a remaining segments sub-field **1272** and a first segment sub-field **1274**. In the illustrated aspect, the remaining segments sub-field **1272** comprises bits B12-B14 of the field **1110e** and the first segment sub-field **1274** comprise bit B15 of the field **1110e**. The remaining segments sub-field **1272** may be used to convey similar information or configured similar to the remaining segments sub-field **1222** discussed

above. The first segment sub-field **1274** may be used to convey similar information or configured similar to the first segment sub-field **1262** discussed above. When considered together, the remaining segments sub-field **1272** and the first segment sub-field **1274** may be used to convey similar information as the CSI null sub-field **1234** and/or the SF null sub-field **1252** discussed above.

The remaining segments sub-field **1272** and the first segment sub-field **1274** may be set to various values as described above with respect to bits B12-B14 and B15, respectively, to indicate information about CSI feedback. Example values of these sub-fields, as well as the remaining sub-fields **1202-1232** of the field **1110e**, are enumerated in the table below. The values below are only illustrative, and are not intended to be limiting. One having ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that other values may be used or other information may be indicated by the illustrated values.

Sub-field	Values and Description of Indicated Information
Nc Index	Indicates the number of columns in a matrix minus one: Set to 0 for Nc = 1 Set to 1 for Nc = 2 ... Set to 7 for Nc = 8
Nr Index	Indicates the number of rows in a matrix minus one: Set to 0 for Nr = 1 Set to 1 for Nr = 2 ... Set to 7 for Nr = 8
Channel Width	Indicates the width of the channel in which a measurement was made: Set to 0 for 20 MHz Set to 1 for 40 MHz Set to 2 for 80 MHz Set to 3 for 160 MHz or 80 + 80 MHz
Grouping	Number of carriers grouped into one: Set to 0 for Ng = 1 (No grouping) Set to 1 for Ng = 2 Set to 2 for Ng = 4 The value 3 is reserved
Feedback Type	Set to 0 if the feedback report is for SU-BF. If it is set to 0, the feedback report frame shall not include the MU Exclusive Beamforming Report field. Set to 1 if the feedback report is for MU-BF. If it is set to 1, the feedback report frame shall include the MU Exclusive Beamforming Report field
Codebook Information	Indicates the size of codebook entries: If Feedback Type is set to 0 (SU-BF) Set to 0 for 2 bit for ψ , 4 bits for ϕ Set to 1 for 4 bit for ψ , 6 bits for ϕ If Feedback Type is set to 1 (MU-BF) Set to 0 for 5 bit for ψ , 7 bits for ϕ Set to 1 for 7 bit for ψ , 9 bits for ϕ
Remaining segments	Contains the remaining segment number for the associated measurement report. Valid range: 0 to 7. Set to 0 for the last segment of a segmented report or the only segment of an unsegmented report. When First segment is set to 0, Remaining segments equal to 7 indicates the frame is a Null Feedback frame, e.g. the VHT Compressed Beamforming Report and MU Exclusive Beamforming Report fields are not present.
First segment Sounding Sequence	Set to 1 if the segment is the first. Set to 0 if the segment is the only segment. Sequence number from the NDPA soliciting feedback.

FIG. 13 illustrates an aspect of an access point (AP) **1300** for use within the system **100**. The AP **1300** may comprise the AP **110** illustrated in FIG. 1 or FIG. 2. As discussed above, the AP **1300** may be implemented as a wireless device, for example as a wireless device **302** illustrated in

FIG. 3. The AP **1300** may be used to communicate with a user terminal or STA as described above with respect to FIGS. 4-12.

The AP **1300** may comprise an NDPA module **1302** for generating an NDPA frame, for example the NDPA frame **402** or **422**. When generating an NDPA frame, the NDPA module **1202** may determine whether SF was received from an STA in response to a previous NDPA frame or in response to a polling message. The SF may be received by a receiving module **1204**, for example, and the NDPA frame may have been transmitted by a transmitting module **1206**. The polling message may be generated by a polling module **1208**. The result of this determination may be included in the NDPA frame, for example in a last SF received field as discussed above.

The NDPA module **1302** may further determine whether the last SF polled for by the polling module **1308** was stored, for example stored in a memory **1312**. The result of this determination may be included in the NDPA frame, for example in a last SF stored field or a previous SF stored field as discussed above.

In some aspects, the NDPA module **1302** is configured to wrap an NDPA frame in a control wrapper, for example as shown in FIG. 9A or FIG. 9B. In these aspects, the NDPA module **1302** may be configured to determine an HT-control field and/or MCS for an STA to send requested CSI. The NDPA module **1302** may also determine a rate at which the STA should use to send the requested CSI. The result of this determination may be included in the wrapped NDPA frame.

The NDPA module **1202** may be configured to determine one or more STAs from which CSI feedback information is being requested. Information identifying these STAs may be included in an STA information field, as described above with respect to FIGS. 6A-6C.

The NDPA module **1302** may be configured to determine parameters for each of the STAs to use for reporting CSI feedback. For example, the NDPA module **1202** may determine whether each STA or all of the STAs collectively should compute CSI for SU or MU. The NDPA module **1302** may further be configured to determine a number of spatial channels or streams (e.g., Eigen modes) of CSI feedback to be computed at the STAs, a grouping of tones on which the STAs are to generate CSI feedback, a coefficient size corresponding to a quantization used by the STAs for matrix entries of the CSI feedback, and/or codebook information indicating a quantization for angles that the STAs should use for CSI feedback, as described above with respect to FIG. 7. In some aspects, the NDPA module **1302** is configured to determine one or more of the above parameters based on whether the CSI feedback will be used for MU or SU.

In some aspects, the NDPA module **1302** is configured to determine a frequency for sending NDPA frames, for example based at least in part on CSI or changing channel conditions indicated in CSI feedback, as discussed above. The NDPA module **1302** may further be configured to generate or determine any of the other information described above with respect to the NDPA frame **422**. In some aspects, functionality of the NDPA module **1302** is implemented using at least the controller **230** illustrated in FIG. 2.

The receiving module **1304** may be used to receive control information, CSI feedback, and/or other communications from an STA such as communications indicating that no CSI feedback will be transmitted from the STA. The received data may be demodulated, downconverted, or otherwise processed by the receiving module **1304** or another module. The receiving module **1304** may be implemented using a receiver, for example the receiver **312** illustrated in

FIG. 3, or a combination of receivers, for example the receivers 222a-222ap illustrated in FIG. 2. The receiving module 1304 may be implemented in a transceiver, and may comprise a demodulator and/or a receive data processor, for example the RX data processor 242. In some aspects, the receiving module 1304 comprises an antenna and a transceiver, for example the antenna 224 and the transceiver 222. The transceiver may be configured to demodulate inbound wireless messages. The messages may be received via the antenna.

The transmitting module 1306 may be used to transmit NDPA frames and/or polling messages. In some aspects, the transmitting module 1306 is configured to wirelessly transmit the NDPA frame, for example to the user terminal 120. The transmitting module 1306 may be implemented using a transmitter, for example the transmitter 310 illustrated in FIG. 3, or a combination of transmitters, for example the transmitters 222a-222ap illustrated in FIG. 2. The transmitting module 1306 may be implemented in a transceiver, and may comprise a modulator and/or a transmission data processor, for example the TX data processor 210. In some aspects, the transmitting module 1306 comprises an antenna and a transceiver, for example the antenna 224 and the transceiver 222. The transceiver may be configured to modulate outbound wireless messages going to a user terminal or STA. The messages may be transmitted via the antenna.

The polling module 1308 may be used to generate polling messages to transmit to the STAs, for example any of the CSI polls 412, 416. The polling module may determine which STA to transmit a polling message based on information received via the receiving module 1304. For example, remaining segment information received in a control message or field via the receiving module 1304 may be used by the polling module 1308 to generate a polling message.

In some aspects, the polling module 1308 is configured to wrap a polling message in a control wrapper, for example as shown in FIG. 10. In these aspects, the polling module 1308 may be configured to determine an HT-control field and/or MCS for an STA to send requested CSI. The result of this determination may be included in the wrapped polling message.

The polling module 1308 may further be configured to generate or determine any of the other information described above with respect to polling messages such as the CSI poll 412 or the CSI poll 416, or the frame 1000, for example to include the sequence number of an NDPA frame. In some aspects, functionality of the polling module 1308 is implemented using at least the controller 230 and/or the scheduler 234 illustrated in FIG. 2.

The memory 1312 may be configured to store CSI information received from one or more STAs, for example via the receiving module 1304. As described above, the CSI may be represented as a matrix, which may be stored in the memory 1312. Other formats for representing the CSI may additionally be stored in the memory 1312. In some aspects, CSI that has timed out or expired may be periodically deleted from the memory 1312. The memory 1312 may be volatile or non-volatile, or may be a combination of both. In some aspects, functionality of the memory 1312 is implemented using at least the memory 232 illustrated in FIG. 2 or the memory 306 illustrated in FIG. 3.

The AP 1300 may further comprise CSI processing module 1314 for processing received CSI feedback, for example received using the receiving module 1304. The CSI processing module 1314 may be configured to process the CSI feedback using one or more of the parameters indicated in a

received message, for example according to SU or MU. The CSI processing module 1314 may also be configured to process the CSI feedback using one or more of the parameters indicated in a previously transmitted frame, for example using the MCS transmitted in a wrapped frame.

In some aspects, the CSI processing module 1314 is configured to determine if a communication is received from an STA indicating that the STA has no CSI feedback to transmit. For example, a CSI null field may be received in a CSI feedback indicating that no CSI will be received or one or more values in a reserved field, such as a first segments field and a remaining segments field, may indicate that no CSI will be received. The CSI processing module may be configured to determine if previously stored CSI should be used, for example by evaluating an SF null field and a use previous SF field. In some aspects, the CSI processing field is configured to change a rate or modulation for transmitting CSI requests based on information received in the CSI feedback, as described above. In some aspects, the CSI processing module 1314 may determine that no CSI will be received based on a length of the communication. The CSI processing module 1314 may also be configured to determine a condition that caused the CSI not to be received.

In some aspects, the CSI processing module 1314 is configured to generate CSI from a difference received in a CSI feedback. For example, when a difference CSI field or use previous SF field indicates that data representative of a difference between current CSI and a previously stored CSI is being transmitted, the CSI processing module 1314 may determine the current CSI using the difference data and CSI stored in the memory 1312.

In some aspects, the CSI processing module 1314 is configured to analyze received CSI feedback to determine a frequency for sending NDPA frames, for example based at least in part on CSI or changing channel conditions indicated in CSI feedback. This information may be communicated to the NDPA module 1302. In some aspects, functionality of the CSI processing module 1210 is implemented using at least the controller 230 and/or the RX data processor 242 illustrated in FIG. 2.

Those of skill in the art will appreciate various circuits, chips, modules, and/or components, which may comprise either software or hardware or both, that may be used to implement the modules described above with respect to the AP 1300. One or more of the modules of the AP 1300 may be partially or wholly implemented in the processor 304 illustrated in FIG. 3.

FIG. 14 illustrates an aspect 1400 of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the AP 1200, for example, to request channel state information from an STA and to optionally inform the STA of whether past SF has been received from the STA and/or stored at the AP. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the AP 1200, those of skill in the art will appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step 1402, a first request for channel state information is transmitted, for example using the transmitting module 1204. The first request may comprise a null data packet announcement or a polling message, for example. The NDPA module 1302 or the polling module 1308 may be used to generate the request.

Proceeding to step 1404, it is determined whether the channel state information has been received in response to the first request or whether the channel state information has been stored subsequent to the transmission. This determination may be performed by the CSI processing module

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1314, for example. The channel state information may be received at the receiving module 1304, or may be stored in the memory 1312.

Moving to step 1406, a second request comprising an indicator signifying a result of the determination is transmitted, for example using the transmitting module 1306. The second request may comprise an NDPA frame, for example. In some aspects, the result of the determination is indicated in a last SF received field, a last SF stored field, or a previous SF stored field, as discussed above with respect to FIG. 7. The NDPA module 1302 and/or the CSI processing module 1314 may be used in creating the second request.

FIG. 15 illustrates an aspect 1500 of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the AP 1200, for example, to receive data representative of a portion of channel state information, or to receive notice that the channel state information will not be transmitted. In some aspects, the method 1500 may be used to determine why channel state information is not being transmitted from an STA. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the AP 1200, those of skill in the art will appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step 1502, a request for channel state information is transmitted, for example by the transmitting module 1306. Thereafter, at step 1504, a communication is received. The communication may comprise a first indicator and a second indicator signifying whether the channel state information is included in the communication. If the first indicator and/or the second indicator signifies that the channel state information is included, the first indicator and/or the second indicator further signifies whether the channel state information comprises information representative of a difference between current channel state information and previously received channel state information. The first and second indicators may comprise two or more of a CSI null field, a NDPA/NDP not received field, an SF null field, a use previous SF field, and/or a CSI null and difference field, as described above with respect to FIG. 12. The communication may be received using the receiving module 1304, for example. The communication may be processed by the CSI processing module 1314, for example, to determine if CSI information is included and/or to determine whether CSI stored at the AP will be used.

FIG. 16 illustrates an aspect 1600 of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the AP 1200, for example, to notify an STA of MCS for transmitting CSI. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the AP 1200, those of skill in the art will appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step 1602, a modulation coding scheme (MCS) or a rate for receiving channel state information is determined. In some aspects, the NDPA module 1302 may perform the determination. In other aspects, the polling module 1308 may determine perform the determination. In some aspects, the CSI processing module 1312 may be configured to perform a portion or all of the determination, for example based on communications received from an STA such as whether a state of a channel has been changing. The communications may be received using the receiving module 1304, for example.

Next, at step 1604, a wrapper frame is transmitted. The wrapper frame may comprise a control field indicating the determined MCS or rate and at least one field indicating that at least a portion of the channel state information is requested. The wrapper frame may comprise a wrapped

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NDPA frame, as discussed above with respect to FIG. 9A, or a wrapped polling message, as described above with respect to FIG. 10. The wrapper frame may be transmitted by the transmitting module 1306, for example.

FIG. 17 illustrates an aspect of a station (STA) 1700 for use within the system 100. The STA 1700 may comprise any of the user terminals 120 illustrated in FIG. 1 or FIG. 2. As discussed above, the STA 1700 may be implemented as a wireless device, for example as a wireless device 302 illustrated in FIG. 3. The STA 1700 may be used to communicate with an AP as described above with respect to FIGS. 4-12.

The STA 1700 may comprise a receiving module 1702 for receiving an NDPA frame and/or a CSI poll. For example, the receiving module 1702 may be configured to receive the NDPA frame 402 or 422 and/or either of the CSI polls 412, 416. Further, the receiving module 1702 may be configured to receive an NDP frame and frames that comprise wrapped NDPA frames or wrapped polling messages. Received data may be demodulated, downconverted, or otherwise processed by the receiving module 1702 or another module. The receiving module 1702 may be implemented using a receiver, for example the receiver 312 illustrated in FIG. 3, or a combination of receivers, for example the receivers 254m-254mu or 254xa-254xu illustrated in FIG. 2. The receiving module 1702 may be implemented in a transceiver, and may comprise a demodulator and/or a receive data processor, for example the receiver 312 illustrated in FIG. 3, or a combination of receivers, for example the receivers 254m-254mu or 254xa-254xu illustrated in FIG. 2. The receiving module 1702 may be implemented in a transceiver, and may comprise a demodulator and/or a receive data processor, for example the receiver 312 illustrated in FIG. 3, or a combination of receivers, for example the receivers 254m-254mu or 254xa-254xu illustrated in FIG. 2. In some aspects, the receiving module 1702 comprises an antenna and a transceiver, for example the antenna 252 and the transceiver 254. The transceiver may be configured to demodulate inbound wireless messages. The messages may be received via the antenna.

The STA 1700 may further comprise a CSI feedback module 1704 for determining CSI feedback. The CSI feedback module 1704 may be configured to determine the CSI feedback based on a received NDP frame associated with a received NDPA frame. The CSI may be represented as a matrix, as discussed above. Parameters of the CSI feedback may be determined in some aspects by the CSI feedback module 1704. In some aspects, the CSI feedback module is configured to determine MCS from a communication such as a control wrapper received via the receiving module 1702. For example, the CSI feedback module may determine MCS for CSI from an HT-control field included in a wrapped NDPA frame, as described above with respect to FIG. 9A.

The CSI feedback module 1704 may be configured to determine whether to compute regular/complete CSI, or whether to compute a difference between a previous CSI and current CSI. For example, the CSI feedback module 1704 may evaluate a last SF stored field or a previous SF stored field in an NDPA, as well as conditions of a channel, as discussed above. If a condition of the channel is substantially similar to a condition when a previous SF was stored, the CSI feedback module 1704 may determine not to send any CSI. In some aspects, the CSI feedback module 1704 may determine that SF has been stored at an AP, and may compute difference data to send to the AP to calculate current SF. The determinations of the CSI feedback module 1704 may be included in CSI feedback, for example in the CSI feedback 408 illustrated in FIGS. 11 and 12. In some aspects, the determinations may be indicated by a CSI null field, a difference CSI field, an SF null field, a use previous SF field, a CSI null and difference field, and/or one or more values in a reserved field such as a first segments field and a remaining segments field. A reason that caused the CSI feedback module 1704 not to send CSI may be indicated by

an NDPA/NDP not received field, a difference CSI field, an SF null field, a use previous SF field, a CSI null and difference field, and/or in fields that become reserved once it is determined that no CSI will not be transmitted, for example in a CSI feedback communication transmitted to the AP. In some aspects, the CSI feedback module 1704 is configured to generate a CSI feedback communication having a length that indicates that the CSI will not be transmitted. In some aspects, the CSI feedback module 1704 may determine that CSI feedback will not be transmitted due to a transmission limitation, such as a PPDU or TXOP limitation.

The CSI feedback module 1704 may further be configured to generate or determine any of the other information described above with respect to the CSI feedback 408. In some aspects, functionality of the CSI feedback module 1704 is implemented using at least the controller 280 and/or the channel estimator 278. In some aspects, the CSI feedback module 1704 comprises a quantizer to quantize angles and/or entries in a matrix representing the CSI.

The STA 1700 may further comprise a rate adjustment module 1706 for determining an adjustment of a rate used to send the CSI feedback determined by the CSI feedback module 1704. For example, the rate adjustment module 1706 may increase a PHY rate for sending the CSI feedback when a last SF received field in one or more received NDPA frames indicates that the CSI feedback that the STA 1700 has been transmitting has been successfully received. Similarly, the rate adjustment module 1706 may decrease a rate such as a PHY rate if a last SF received field, a last SF stored field, or a previous SF stored field indicates that a previously transmitted SF was not received or could not be stored. In some aspects, the rate adjustment module 1706 may adjust other parameters of the CSI feedback, for example a modulation of the CSI feedback. The rate adjustment module 1706 may determine or adjust a rate based on a control field in a wrapper, as discussed above. The rate adjustment module 1706 may also be configured to determine a rate at which a message, for example a polling message, is received, for example at the receiving module 1702.

The rate adjustment module 1706 may be configured to perform any of the rate adjustment procedures described above with respect to FIG. 7. In some aspects, functionality of the rate adjustment module 1706 is implemented using at least the controller 280. In some aspects, the rate adjustment module 1706 looks up values or parameters in a memory, such as the memory 282, for example to determine an appropriate rate or adjustment.

The STA 1700 further comprises a transmitting module 1708 for transmitting CSI feedback. For example, the transmitting module 1708 may be configured to transmit the CSI feedback determined by the CSI feedback module 1704. The transmitting module may be configured to transmit at a rate determined by the rate adjustment module 1706 or using another parameter determined by the rate adjustment module 1706. In some aspects, the transmitting module 1708 is configured to wirelessly transmit the CSI feedback, for example to the AP 110. The transmitting module 1708 may be implemented using a transmitter, for example the transmitter 310 illustrated in FIG. 3, or a combination of transmitters, for example the transmitters 254m-254mu or 254xa-254xu illustrated in FIG. 2. The transmitting module 1708 may be implemented in a transceiver, and may comprise a modulator and/or a transmission data processor, for example the TX data processor 288. In some aspects, the transmitting module 1708 comprises an antenna and a transceiver, for example the antenna 252 and the transceiver 254. The

transceiver may be configured to modulate outbound wireless messages going to an AP. The messages may be transmitted via the antenna.

Those of skill in the art will appreciate various circuits, chips, modules, and/or components, which may comprise either software or hardware or both, that may be used to implement the modules described above with respect to the STA 1700. One or more of the modules of the STA 1700 may be partially or wholly implemented in the processor 304 illustrated in FIG. 3.

Although described separately, it is to be appreciated that functional blocks described with respect to the AP 1300 and the STA 1700 need not be separate structural elements. Similarly, one or more of the functional blocks or portions of the functionality of various blocks may be embodied in a single chip. Alternatively, the functionality of a particular block may be implemented on two or more chips. In addition, additional modules or functionality may be implemented in the AP 1300 and the STA 1700. Similarly, fewer modules or functionalities may be implemented in the AP 1300 and the STA 1700, and the components of the AP 1300 and/or the STA 1700 may be arranged in any of a plurality of configurations. Additional or fewer couplings between the various modules illustrated in FIGS. 2, 3, 13 and 17 or between additional modules may be implemented.

FIG. 18 illustrates an aspect 1800 of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the STA 1700, for example, to determine whether transmitted SF has been received and/or stored at an AP. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the STA 1700, those of skill in the art will appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step 1802, a first request for channel state information is received, for example using the receiving module 1702. The first request may comprise a null data packet announcement or a polling message, for example.

At step 1804, a frame comprising the channel state information is transmitted. The channel state information may be determined using the CSI feedback module 1704, for example, and may be transmitted using the transmitting module 1708, for example. The CSI feedback may be determined using the first request received at step 1802.

Proceeding to step 1806, a second request is received. The second request comprises a first indicator signifying whether the channel state information has been received in response to the first request or whether the channel state information has been stored subsequent to the transmission. The second request may be received using the receiving module 1702, for example. The second request may comprise an NDPA frame. In some aspects, the second request is processed by the CSI feedback module 1704 and/or the rate adjustment module 1706 to determine whether to send CSI feedback or to adjust a parameter such as a rate used to send the CSI.

FIG. 19 illustrates an aspect 1900 of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the STA 1700, for example, to determine whether to transmit CSI, and in some aspects to indicate to an AP whether transmitted CSI comprises a difference CSI. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the STA 1700, those of skill in the art will appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step 1902, a message indicating that channel state information is requested is received, for example using the receiving module 1702. In some aspects, the message com-

prises an NDPA frame or a polling message. The message may indicate whether previously transmitted SF is stored at an AP.

Thereafter, at step **1904** it is determined whether to transmit the channel state information. The determination may be performed by the CSI feedback module **1704**, for example. The CSI feedback module **1704** may evaluate whether a channel condition has changed, and whether CSI is stored at the AP, for example as described above.

Moving to step **1906**, a communication is transmitted. The communication may comprise a first indicator and a second indicator signifying a result of the determination. If the first indicator and/or the second indicator signifies that the channel state information will be transmitted, the first indicator and/or the second indicator may signify whether the channel state information comprises information representative of a difference between current channel state information and previously transmitted channel state information. The first indicator may comprise a CSI null field, an SF null field, and/or a portion of a CSI null and difference field, for example. The second indicator may comprise a difference CSI field, a use previous SF field, and/or a portion of a CSI null and difference field, for example. The indicators may be determined by the CSI feedback module **1704**, for example. The communication may comprise CSI feedback, for example the CSI feedback **408**, or another communication indicating whether CSI will be transmitted. The communication may be transmitted using the transmitting module **1708**, for example.

FIG. **20** illustrates an aspect **2000** of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the STA **1700**, for example, to determine MCS for transmitting CSI. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the STA **1700**, those of skill in the art will appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step **2002**, a wrapper frame is received, for example using the receiving module **1702**. The wrapper frame may comprise a control field indicating a modulation coding scheme (MCS) for transmitting channel state information, and at least one field indicating that at least a portion of channel state information is requested. The wrapper frame may comprise a wrapped NDPA frame, as discussed above with respect to FIG. **9A**, or a wrapped polling message, as described above with respect to FIG. **10**.

Subsequently, at step **2004**, at least the portion of the channel state information requested by the frame is transmitted, for example using the transmitting module **1708**. The CSI feedback module **1704** and/or the rate adjustment module may extract MCS from the control field in the received wrapper frame to determine how to send the CSI. The channel state information may be transmitted as CSI feedback such as the CSI feedback **408**. The channel state information may be determined by the CSI feedback module **1704**, for example as described above.

FIG. **21** illustrates an aspect **2100** of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the AP **1200**, for example, to determine that channel state information will not be received, and to determine why the channel state information is not being transmitted from an STA. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the AP **1200**, those of skill in the art will appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step **2102**, a request for channel state information is transmitted, for example by the transmitting module **1306**. Thereafter, at step **2104**, a communication is received. The

communication may comprise an indicator. The communication may be received using the receiving module **1304**, for example.

After reception of the communication, it is determined that the communication does not include channel state information based on a length of the communication at step **2106**. Further, at step **2108**, a condition that caused the channel state information not to be received is determined based on a value of the indicator. The indicator may comprise a NDPA/NDP not received field, a use previous SF field, and/or a CSI null and difference field, as described above with respect to FIG. **12**. The indicator may further comprise a bit, field, or other signifier indicative of whether a transmission limitation would be exceeded by transmitting the channel state information. The determining at step the **2106** and/or at the step **2108** may be performed by the CSI processing module **1314**, for example.

FIG. **22** illustrates an aspect **2200** of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the STA **1700**, for example, to determine whether to transmit CSI, and to indicate to an AP a reason why CSI isn't being transmitted. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the STA **1700**, those of skill in the art will appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step **2202**, a message indicating that channel state information is requested is received, for example using the receiving module **1702**. In some aspects, the message comprises an NDPA frame or a polling message. The message may indicate whether previously transmitted SF is stored at an AP.

Thereafter, at step **2204** it is determined not to transmit the channel state information. The determination may be performed by the CSI feedback module **1704**, for example. The CSI feedback module **1704** may evaluate whether a channel condition has changed, whether CSI is stored at the AP, and/or whether a frame including the CSI would be too long for transmission, for example as described above.

Moving to step **2206**, a communication comprising an indicator is generated. A length of the communication is based on the determination in step **2204**. For example, a CSI feedback field may be omitted to make the communication a certain length. Further, a value of the indicator is based on a condition that caused the channel state information not to be transmitted. The indicator may comprise a difference CSI field, a use previous SF field, and/or a portion of a CSI null and difference field, for example. The indicator may further comprise a bit, field, or other signifier indicative of whether a transmission limitation would be exceeded by transmitting the channel state information. The generation, and/or a determination of the length or value of the indicator may be determined by the CSI feedback module **1704**, for example. The communication may comprise CSI feedback, for example the CSI feedback **408**, or another communication indicating that CSI will not be transmitted. The indicator may be included in a control field of the CSI feedback.

At step **2208**, the communication is transmitted. The communication may be transmitted using the transmitting module **1708**, for example.

FIG. **23** illustrates an aspect **2300** of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the AP **1200**, for example, to determine that channel state information will not be received, and to determine why the channel state information is not being transmitted from an STA. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the AP **1200**, those of skill in the art will

appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step **2302**, a request for channel state information is transmitted, for example by the transmitting module **1306**. Thereafter, at step **2304**, a communication is received. The communication may comprise a first field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is being received in the communication, and a second field for indicating a number of segments of the channel state information remaining to be received. The first and second field may be portions of a reserved field, such as a first segment field and a remaining segments field. The communication may be received using the receiving module **1304**, for example.

After reception of the communication, it is determined whether the communication includes channel state information based on the first field and the second field at step **2306**. For example, it may be determined that no channel state information is included in the communication if the first field indicates that a first segment of channel state information is not included in the communication and a value of the second field is at least as great as a maximum number of remaining segments.

Further, at step **2308**, a condition that caused the channel state information not to be received is determined if the first field and the second field indicate that the communication does not include channel state information. The condition may be determined based at least in part on two or more bits adjacent to the first field or the second field. For example, bits that may be used for a different purpose may become reserved when the first field and second field indicate that the communication does not include the channel state information, as described above with respect to FIG. **12**. The determining at step the **2306** and/or at the step **2308** may be performed by the CSI processing module **1314**, for example.

FIG. **24** illustrates an aspect **2400** of a method for communication. The method may be implemented by the STA **1700**, for example, to determine whether to transmit CSI, and to indicate to an AP a reason why CSI isn't being transmitted. Although the method below will be described with respect to elements of the STA **1700**, those of skill in the art will appreciate that other components may be used to implement one or more of the steps described herein.

At step **2402**, a message indicating that channel state information is requested is received, for example using the receiving module **1702**. In some aspects, the message comprises an NDPA frame or a polling message. The message may indicate whether previously transmitted SF is stored at an AP.

Thereafter, at step **2404** a communication is generated. The communication may comprise a first field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is being transmitted and a second field for indicating a number of segments of the channel state information remaining to be transmitted. The first and second field may be portions of a reserved field, such as a first segment field and a remaining segments field. The generation may be performed by the CSI feedback module **1704**, for example. The CSI feedback module **1704** may evaluate whether a channel condition has changed, whether CSI is stored at the AP, and/or whether a frame including the CSI would be too long for transmission, for example as described above. The communication may comprise CSI feedback, for example the CSI feedback **408**.

Moving to step **2406**, a plurality of bits in the communication is set if to signify a condition that caused the channel state information not to be included if the first field and the second field indicate that the communication does not include channel state information. The plurality of bits may

signify that a previous request for channel state information was not received, that current channel state information is substantially similar to previously transmitted channel state information, or that a transmission limitation would be exceeded by transmitting the channel state information, for example. The setting of the plurality of bits may be performed by the CSI feedback module **1704**, for example. The plurality of bits may be included in a control field of the CSI feedback.

At step **2408**, the communication is transmitted. The communication may be transmitted using the transmitting module **1708**, for example.

Those of skill in the art will appreciate that a simple and clean frame format for CSI feedback communications has been described herein. In some aspects, STA AIDs may be indicated in the NDPA. There may be no indication about a number of STAs in the NDPA in some aspects, although this information may be inferred from the length of NDPA. In some aspects, information regarding whether SF has been received or stored at an AP may be included in the NDPA. In some aspects, information regarding whether an STA is transmitting CSI is included in CSI feedback transmitted to the AP. In some aspects, a wrapper is used to indicate parameters for an STA to use when transmitting SF.

In some aspects, no field is specified for a "first responder" STA. The first listed STA-AID may implicitly represent the first responder in one aspect. NDPA and CSI Poll may carry a matching sequence number to enable STAs to match a CSI Poll to a corresponding NDPA. Similarly, the sequence number may be copied into a control field transmitted by the STA.

The various operations of methods described above may be performed by any suitable means capable of performing the corresponding functions. The means may include various hardware and/or software component(s) and/or module(s), including, but not limited to a circuit, an application specific integrate circuit (ASIC), or processor. Generally, where there are operations, module, or steps illustrated in Figures, those operations may have corresponding counterpart means-plus-function components. For example, an access point may comprise means for transmitting a request for channel state information, means for receiving a communication comprising a field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is being received in the communication, and means for processing the communication based at least in part on the field.

FIG. **25** illustrates a block diagram of an example access point **2500** in accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure. Access point **2500** comprises a receiving module **2505** which may be configured to perform the functions of the means for receiving discussed above. In some aspects, the receiving module may correspond to one or more of the receivers **222** of FIG. **2**. Access point **2500** further comprises a processing module **2510** which may be configured to perform the functions of the means for processing discussed above. In some aspects, the determining module may correspond to the controller **230** of FIG. **2**. Access point **2500** further comprises a transmitting module **2515** which may be configured to perform the functions of the means for transmitting discussed above. In some aspects, the transmitting module may correspond to one or more of the transmitters **222** of FIG. **2**.

As used herein, the term "determining" encompasses a wide variety of actions. For example, "determining" may include calculating, computing, processing, deriving, investigating, looking up (e.g., looking up in a table, a database or another data structure), ascertaining and the like. Also,

“determining” may include receiving (e.g., receiving information), accessing (e.g., accessing data in a memory) and the like. Also, “determining” may include resolving, selecting, choosing, establishing and the like.

As used herein, a phrase referring to “at least one of” a list of items refers to any combination of those items, including single members. As an example, “at least one of: a, b, or c” is intended to cover: a, b, c, a-b, a-c, b-c, and a-b-c.

The various operations of methods described above may be performed by any suitable means capable of performing the operations, such as various hardware and/or software component(s), circuits, and/or module(s). Generally, any operations illustrated in the Figures may be performed by corresponding functional means capable of performing the operations.

The various illustrative logical blocks, modules and circuits described in connection with the present disclosure may be implemented or performed with a general purpose processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array signal (FPGA) or other programmable logic device (PLD), discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. A general purpose processor may be a microprocessor, but in the alternative, the processor may be any commercially available processor, controller, microcontroller or state machine. A processor may also be implemented as a combination of computing devices, e.g., a combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, or any other such configuration.

In one or more aspects, the functions described may be implemented in hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof. If implemented in software, the functions may be stored on or transmitted over as one or more instructions or code on a computer-readable medium. Computer-readable media includes both computer storage media and communication media including any medium that facilitates transfer of a computer program from one place to another. A storage media may be any available media that can be accessed by a computer. By way of example, and not limitation, such computer-readable media can comprise RAM, ROM, EEPROM, CD-ROM or other optical disk storage, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium that can be used to carry or store desired program code in the form of instructions or data structures and that can be accessed by a computer. Also, any connection is properly termed a computer-readable medium. For example, if the software is transmitted from a website, server, or other remote source using a coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, digital subscriber line (DSL), or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave, then the coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, DSL, or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave are included in the definition of medium. Disk and disc, as used herein, includes compact disc (CD), laser disc, optical disc, digital versatile disc (DVD), floppy disc and blu-ray disc where disks usually reproduce data magnetically, while discs reproduce data optically with lasers. Thus, in some aspects computer readable medium may comprise non-transitory computer readable medium (e.g., tangible media). In addition, in some aspects computer readable medium may comprise transitory computer readable medium (e.g., a signal). Combinations of the above should also be included within the scope of computer-readable media.

The methods disclosed herein comprise one or more steps or actions for achieving the described method. The method steps and/or actions may be interchanged with one another without departing from the scope of the claims. In other words, unless a specific order of steps or actions is specified, the order and/or use of specific steps and/or actions may be modified without departing from the scope of the claims.

The functions described may be implemented in hardware, software, firmware or any combination thereof. If implemented in software, the functions may be stored as one or more instructions on a computer-readable medium. A storage media may be any available media that can be accessed by a computer. By way of example, and not limitation, such computer-readable media can comprise RAM, ROM, EEPROM, CD-ROM or other optical disk storage, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium that can be used to carry or store desired program code in the form of instructions or data structures and that can be accessed by a computer. Disk and disc, as used herein, include compact disc (CD), laser disc, optical disc, digital versatile disc (DVD), floppy disk, and Blu-ray® disc where disks usually reproduce data magnetically, while discs reproduce data optically with lasers.

Thus, certain aspects may comprise a computer program product for performing the operations presented herein. For example, such a computer program product may comprise a computer readable medium having instructions stored (and/or encoded) thereon, the instructions being executable by one or more processors to perform the operations described herein. For certain aspects, the computer program product may include packaging material.

Software or instructions may also be transmitted over a transmission medium. For example, if the software is transmitted from a website, server, or other remote source using a coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, digital subscriber line (DSL), or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave, then the coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, DSL, or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave are included in the definition of transmission medium.

Further, it should be appreciated that modules and/or other appropriate means for performing the methods and techniques described herein can be downloaded and/or otherwise obtained by a user terminal and/or base station as applicable. For example, such a device can be coupled to a server to facilitate the transfer of means for performing the methods described herein. Alternatively, various methods described herein can be provided via storage means (e.g., RAM, ROM, a physical storage medium such as a compact disc (CD) or floppy disk, etc.), such that a user terminal and/or base station can obtain the various methods upon coupling or providing the storage means to the device. Moreover, any other suitable technique for providing the methods and techniques described herein to a device can be utilized.

It is to be understood that the claims are not limited to the precise configuration and components illustrated above. Various modifications, changes and variations may be made in the arrangement, operation and details of the methods and apparatus described above without departing from the scope of the claims.

While the foregoing is directed to aspects of the present disclosure, other and further aspects of the disclosure may be devised without departing from the basic scope thereof, and the scope thereof is determined by the claims that follow.

The invention claimed is:

1. An apparatus for wireless communication, comprising:
 - a transmitter configured to transmit a request for channel state information;
 - a receiver configured to receive a communication comprising a first field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is included in the communication, wherein the communication comprises a second field for indicating a number of segments of channel state information remaining to be received if the field indicates that a first segment of channel state information is included or a value of the second field is less than a maximum number of remaining segments; and
 - a processing system configured to process the communication based at least in part on the first field and the second field.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing system is configured to determine that the communication has null channel state information based on the first field and the second field.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the request comprises a first sequence number and the communication comprises a second sequence number, and wherein the processing system is configured to process the communication based on whether the first sequence number matches the second sequence number.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the request comprises a null data packet announcement.
5. An apparatus for wireless communication, comprising:
 - a transmitter configured to transmit a request for channel state information;
 - a receiver configured to receive a communication comprising a first field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is included in the communication, wherein the communication comprises a second field and wherein the first field and the second field indicate null channel state information is included in the communication if the first field indicates that a first segment of channel state information is not included in the communication and a value of the second field is at least as great as a maximum number of remaining segments; and
 - a processing system configured to process the communication based at least in part on the first field and the second field.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising at least one antenna, wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit the request for channel state information via the at least one antenna.

7. A method of wireless communication, comprising:
 - transmitting a request for channel state information;
 - receiving a communication comprising a first field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is included in the communication, wherein the communication comprises a second field for indicating a number of segments of channel state information remaining to be received if the field indicates that a first segment of channel state information is included or a value of the second field is less than a maximum number of remaining segments; and
 - processing the communication based at least in part on the first field and the second field.
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising determining that the communication has null channel state information based on the first field and the second field.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the communication comprises a second field for indicating a number of segments of channel state information remaining to be received, and wherein the first field and the second field indicate null channel state information is included in the communication if the first field indicates that a first segment of channel state information is not included in the communication and a value of the second field is at least as great as a maximum number of remaining segments.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein the request comprises a first sequence number and the communication comprises a second sequence number, and further comprising processing the communication based on whether the first sequence number matches the second sequence number.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the request comprises a null data packet announcement.
12. An access point, comprising:
 - at least one antenna;
 - a transmitter configured to transmit, via the at least one antenna, a request for channel state information;
 - a receiver configured to receive a communication comprising a first field for indicating if a first segment of channel state information is included in the communication, wherein the communication comprises a second field for indicating a number of segments of channel state information remaining to be received if the first field indicates that a first segment of channel state information is included or a value of the second field is less than a maximum number of remaining segments; and
 - a processing system configured to process the communication based at least in part on the first field and the second field.

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